

# End of the Age, Coming of the Messiah, Rest of God (Part 2) - Signs of the Times

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/dxjsywj/end-of-the-age-coming-of-the-messiah-rest-of-god-part-2>

\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is **not verbatim**. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

## The Coming of the Son of Man

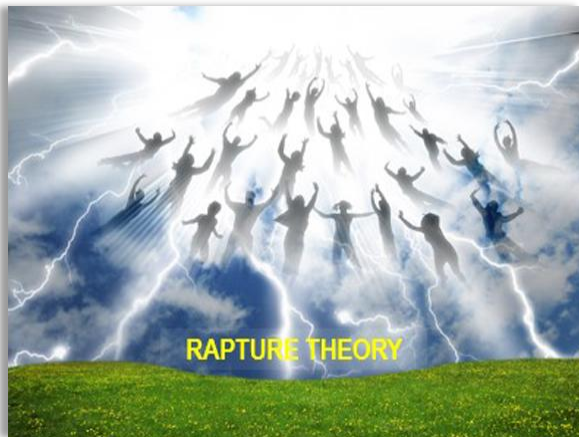
This sermon, delivered by Pastor Daniel Joseph of Corner Fringe Ministries, **explores biblical eschatology and the signs of the end times**. It emphasizes a **two-age framework** (the age of Esau and the age of Jacob/Israel) as a foundational understanding for interpreting prophecy. Daniel asserts that the world is currently **experiencing the "birth pains" of tribulation**, marked by increasing **deception, widespread lawlessness, global conflicts, natural disasters, and intense hatred towards believers in Yeshua**. Drawing parallels between the present and the days of Noah and Lot, the message urges listeners to **maintain faith, obey God's commandments, and spread the gospel** as destruction and judgment approach, **while holding onto the promise of ultimate salvation**.

[Daniel Joseph]

Last week, we began a new study, and this study is called "*The End of the Age, Coming of the Messiah, Rest of God*." And we began to learn a little bit about eschatology, looking at the fundamental building blocks, if you will. In other words, what I'm referring to is the fact that there are two ages, very distinct and opposite from one another. There's not one age, and there are not three ages. God has created two specific ages for His creation, for all mankind to experience.

Now obviously, for most of you, I'm going to assume this component is pretty elementary, right? That there are two ages. But I do not want you to make the mistake of underestimating the importance of understanding the reality of these two ages and how important it is that they can affect you. I'm going to tell you something right now. When you go to frame, when you go to build your eschatological belief system, if you do so without a firm foundation, without a solid foundation, you're going to stick prophecy on top of prophecy and prophecy on top of prophecy. What's going to happen? It's going to start to wobble, and it's going to fail. It will fall if you do not have a good foundation. There will be gaps. You will look at things incorrectly. There will be contradictions in your eschatology. You'll be going to other places of Scripture. It will not seem to make sense. All of this is the product of not getting your foundation solid. This is what's going to happen.

Let me give you an example of this. How many of you have heard of the Rapture theory? The Rapture theory; anybody? Just a couple? Okay, just making sure you're alive. The Rapture theory—I'm going to



tell you right up front—there is a lot of truth in the theory itself. There's a lot of biblical truth that is portrayed accurately, even. I mean, you look at this picture; I'm okay with this picture. This is an accurate portrayal. The dead are going to rise. This is Yom Teruah; the dead, the graves, are going to be ripped open, and the souls of men are going to go to meet the LORD in the air. This is what's going to happen; this is powerful. I don't have a problem with that, but isn't it fascinating that the most prominent aspects of the teaching of the rapture theory are the ones that aren't biblically sound? For example, the whole ideology of a pre-trib rapture. Most people who subscribe to the rapture theory

subscribe to the ideology that there is going to be a pre-trib rapture, and they're not going to experience any tribulation. People are just going to disappear from the face of the earth.

I was listening to Jonathan Cahn last night with my wife, and he made a funny. If you don't know, he's a messianic Jewish rabbi, very, very powerful; he wrote the book *The Harbinger*—the whole deal. And he was asked, "Where do you stand on the rapture?" And he says, "Well, I'm a pan-tribber." And they're like, "Pan-trib? I never heard of that." Pre-trib, mid-trib, or post-trib—this is where people fall out. And Jonathan responds, "It's all going to pan out." [laughter] Brilliant; I had to share it. The guy's brilliant. That was just a brilliant response. "It's all going to pan out." It was just funny.

Well, then, you also have other eschatologies that are being framed, such as the Greater Exodus. This is kind of the Hebrew roots version of evangelical rapture theory. And not everybody in the Messianic movement subscribes to this, but there are teachers out there teaching something known as the Greater Exodus. Now, with all due respect, do I believe in a Greater Exodus? Oh, you bet I do. I believe in the Second Coming of the Messiah. But it's interesting that the most predominant characteristics that are being taught are not biblically sound.

And this is what I'm telling you. It all comes down to this: the firm foundation, that solid foundation that should have been laid, where the people should have understanding, proceeding, and then building up from there, was not laid. That's how these things start to develop, and it can be very, very dangerous. And like I mentioned last week, it can affect people's faith. It can be a cause for stumbling, and no lie is of the truth, according to John. Right?

Now, with that said, biblical prophecy doesn't mean that you get to figure everything out; you'll know everything. In fact, in general, the prophecies are to be known and to be studied, and then when they happen, you know God spoke, and this happened. Now we understand. Well, what I want to do with that little introduction is open up today by circling back to last week, and I want to talk about the building blocks, the two ages, just briefly.

If you remember, last week we went to the Apocrypha, and we got to see that the first age, the age that we're in today, was characterized by the character Esau. It's representative of Esau. Well, what do we know about Esau? In the story, you have Jacob and Esau. What do we know about Esau? He came out of

the womb first. He was the first to be born. What does that tell you? When he is representative of an age, what does it tell you? He would be the first age. And what would be the age to follow? It would literally be hanging onto his heel. We will move from the age of Esau to the age of Israel, the age of Jacob.

The second thing we're told about Esau, which is important to point out, is that he would be subservient to Jacob. In other words, the age that is coming is going to prevail over the age we are in today. It is going to be more powerful. It is an age of promise; it is an age of blessing. This is an age of curse; this is an age of iniquity.

Let me take this a step further. I want to take you to Malachi and show you how the LORD views Jacob and Esau. It's going to give us a little further backdrop in regard to what the LORD thinks of this age. We read in Malachi 1:1-3—<sup>1</sup> **The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.** <sup>2</sup> **"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; <sup>3</sup> But Esau I have hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness."**

How does the LORD view Jacob and Esau? Very differently, right? He loves Jacob, He loves Israel, and He hates Esau. You know, you've got to understand, there's a deep spiritual connotation here in regard to the righteous represented through Jacob and the wicked represented through Esau. There's a deep spiritual connotation placed upon this in regard to the ages. The age of Esau and the age of Jacob.

The LORD hates this age. He hates this age; it is an age of iniquity. He hates all workers of iniquity. Look at Psalms 5:5—**The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.** Understand, Esau was a worker of iniquity; he was lawless in nature, and so is this age. This age belongs to the lawless. This is not our home, but guess what? To the lawless and to the wicked, this is their kingdom. This is where they stand. They are establishing their kingdom in this age. We cannot because there's nothing here for us, and there's going to be nothing left of the age of Esau. There will be only the age of Israel, that age of blessing—of promise. There is good news for us. Amen. There's good news for us who call upon the name of Yeshua and who keep His commandments; He will take us out of here.

Now understanding these basic building blocks of having two different ages, it is going to help you, and it is going to help us, as we continue in the study, develop an accurate understanding of biblical eschatology. A huge component is understanding where you're at in the times.

With that said, I want to take you back to Matthew Chapter 24; we began with that. We'll spend the rest of today in Matthew Chapter 24, but I want to reread Matthew 24:3—**Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, speaking of Yeshua, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"** This is what they wanted to know. This is the care and concern of the Jewish apostles in the first century. They want to know when the age is going to end. When are You coming back?

You'll notice, if you've ever read Matthew 24, that Yeshua doesn't respond by just saying, "Mind your own business; never mind; I'm not going to tell you." We are actually sitting in one of the most unique parts in all of Scripture when you come to Matthew 24, and let me say this: all the parts of Scripture are unique in and of themselves, and it's just that it all works beautifully and cohesively together, and there isn't necessarily one part better than another part, but this is unique above all else.

Rarely do you find the people of God asking their God, "When are You going to come back? What is the sign going to be? When are You going to return?" Rarely do you find that situation where they get a response right then—just a flat-out response. Yeshua doesn't tell them, "Never mind." He actually, as we're going to see, goes on to answer their questions. Do you guys want to understand the signs of the times? Do you want to know where you're at? You're going to want to pay very, very close attention to today's message because Yeshua is telling us.

So, let's continue and look at how Yeshua answers this question. We read in the very next verse. — Matthew 24:4-5—<sup>4</sup> **And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.** He answers; this is His answer. The first thing that receives a head at the table. The preeminence—Yeshua's care and concern above all else. Before He starts talking about the sun, moon, and stars, before He even gets into that sign, there's one thing He lays out that He's concerned about above all else: that you take heed that no one deceives you. What does this tell you about what is going to be prevalent prior to the coming of Yeshua? Deception. When Yeshua responds, this is the first thing He says: "Well, you better take heed." You'd better hear these words: take heed that no one deceives you. Why? <sup>5</sup> **For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ.'** What will they do? **And will deceive many.**

Ponder that for a second. He is telling us prior to His coming, something's going to happen. Men are going to rise up proclaiming, "I am Jesus. I am the Christ." And it doesn't just say that they'll deceive some; they're going to deceive many.

Now, you start to think about things like this, and it makes you ponder all the people in history; there have been Jewish rabbis who have been deemed the Messiah. There's Simon bar Kokhba, who was called the Messiah. It was said, "This is the Messiah; this is the deliverer of Israel." He fought awesome battles, and Rabbi Akiva deemed him the Messiah.

You think of more modern times of guys like David Koresh, who, I mean, if you ever read this guy's transcripts, was cuckoo; he thought he could open up the seven seals; he was the one to open the seven seals. He thinks he's the Lamb of God; it's bonkers. Did he have followers? Yes, not a whole lot. And it gets you thinking. It gets you thinking with guys like David Koresh—they go out and get a few followers, but most of Christianity writes these people off. They're being kooks; they're totally kooks, and you stay away. Yeah, they may get 15 or 20 people, but it doesn't really affect the faith.

Understand something. What Yeshua is talking about here is bigger than people like David Koresh. It goes way, way beyond that. And what am I referring to? I want you to think about the papal seat for a second. I want you to think about the chair and the men who have sat in the chair and the things that they have said.

Let me take you to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It's kind of their Christian version of the Talmud, if you will, where it helps explain the faith to them and gives them a deeper understanding of how to walk it out, why they do the things that they do, why they believe what they believe, and all that good stuff. Within the Catechism, I want to read to you something. This is really going to hit home to what Yeshua is saying here, that many will come in my name claiming, "I am the Christ."

This is what it says: —*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, pg 254, #882—[The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter's successor](#), "is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the Faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of

Christ, manifest of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.

If that sounds impressive, wait till you read the following:—*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, pg 256, #891— “The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful—who confirms his brethren in the faith—he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals. I want you to appreciate what was just said. When he sits in his chair, when he speaks, if you will, ex cathedra, what happens? He is infallible; he is Christ. This is what's being said. Any questions about this, and I could spend the next couple of months showing you example after example.

Let me show you some examples of how the pope understood this chair and what they believed. —Pope Pius V, quoted in Barclay, *Cities of God* Chapter XXVII: 218—“The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth.” Don't be confused about their understanding of the chair that they have decided to sit in. The Pope and God are the same; he has all the power in heaven and earth.

Let me show you Pope Pius IX; this is what he said: — Pope Pius IX, *History of the Christian Church*, by Henry Charles Sheldon, p. 59—“I alone... am the successor of the apostles, the vicar of Jesus Christ. I am the way, the truth, and the life...” This is what he said. There's not a man on this earth, I'm telling you, that can make that statement. And it's so funny; they talk about being Peter's successor. Show me where Peter said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” He never said it; it doesn't come out of his mouth.

If that wasn't alarming enough, let me show you one more. — Pope Pius X, *Evangelical Christendom*, Vol. 49, Jan 1, 1895 A.D., p. 15, “the organ of the Evangelical Alliance,” published in London by J. S. Phillips. —“The Pope is not simply the representative of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, he is Jesus Christ Himself, under the veil of the flesh. Does the Pope speak? It is Jesus Christ who is speaking, hence, when anyone speaks of the Pope, it is not necessary to examine but to obey.” Not necessary to examine, but obey. That is very different from what my Word tells me. — 1 John 4:1 — ... but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. And they are deceiving many.

When you think of this statement that Yeshua makes in Matthew 24:5—For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. Stand back in awe because right now millions are being carried away by deception and giving allegiance to the pope over Yeshua, over His word. That's how real it is, and oh, yeah, just as a reminder. What did Yeshua say? This is one of the signs that is coming before His coming. This is one of the things to look for as a sign showing that He's coming back. Are we living in this right now? Are we experiencing this?

He goes on to say in Matthew 24:6—And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Isn't it fascinating? One of the things Yeshua says is that, prior to His coming, one of the things to look for is that there will be wars and rumors of wars. And this is on a very intense level. This isn't talking about a little scuffle somewhere in a remote area of Africa. This is talking about globally, a global eruption that's happening.

And isn't that interesting in modern-day times? What do we call these wars of recent times? World War I, World War II. And right now, when you look at things, we are at the brink of World War III. You have all these countries mounting for war right now. Here's the thing about Bible prophecy that is really



amazing: all the prophecies that we're reading about and the signs of the time that are going to happen just prior to Yeshua's coming are all converging. They are all converging together.

Some people might say, "Well, Daniel, there's always been war on the earth." Agree. But not what Yeshua is addressing. Not to the degree of what Yeshua is addressing in Matthew Chapter 24. Not to the degree of what the Apocrypha describes at all. We are dealing with something, an anomaly, something unique right now; this is what's happening. But here's what I want you to focus on, and Yeshua draws attention to this in Matthew 24:6, "**See that you are not troubled.**" (Emphasis added).

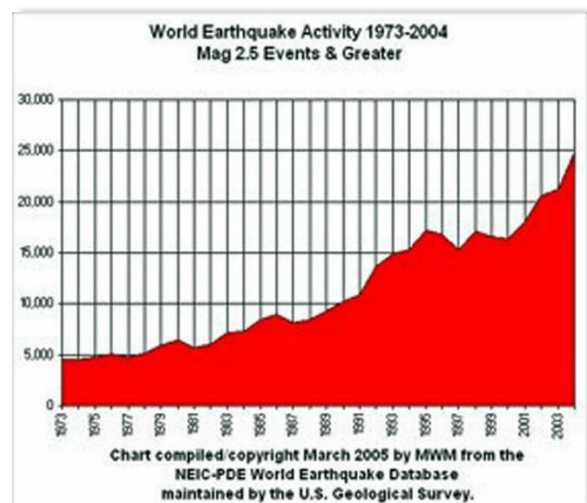
He tells us these things so that when we look at them, they don't trouble us. We don't quake with fear. Fear is not allowed in us. — 2 Timothy 1:7—**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.** We know where we're going. Do you really believe that?

I think about it, if I may use the analogy, and it's just a simple basic analogy, but I'll call it my ice cream analogy. If I were to tell my little girls, specifically my two older ones, just sitting at the table, "You girls have to go up and clean your room." How do you think they respond? They don't respond well. They don't want to clean their room; they want to go outside. They don't want to do it; they'll put up a big stink. But if Dad says, "Here's the deal. I will take you out for ice cream. We'll go to Cold Stone afterwards. Go clean your room." Do you understand? Something that they hated and loathed, they will go up, and it will not affect them at all because all they can think about is the end. All they can think about is the ice cream. That's what you need to do.

Your daddy's going to give you ice cream. Just think about the reality that we can get through this. There's a reason He says, "See that you are not troubled." We have something to look for, and when you have something that you truly believe, see, like my daughters, they don't doubt. Daddy said he's going to take us to the Cold Stone. He's going to take us to the Cold Stone. He's going to take us and get us ice cream. If our daddy said He's going to carry us away, He's going to take us away; He's going to wipe away every tear from our eyes. If you believe that, the things we are about to embark on today are going to seem like nothing because your eye is on the prize. The vertical faith, the vertical faith of looking up. This is where we need to be.

Everybody's getting so caught up, and it just sucks you in. Fear, fear, fear—all these things are happening. Why are we not talking about what should be happening in us with our relationship with Yeshua? Or what's happening here with the Spirit moving? Why are we not concerned about all the things, the beautiful things, that the LORD is speaking in His Word? What consumes us? Is it the cares and concerns of today, or is it His word? Is it the Messiah Yeshua? Start thinking about these things, and it's scary because it starts to reveal where your heart is at.

Moving on to Matthew 24:7—**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.** You think about this, and I have multiple ones, but I'll just show you one. Here's a graph of the earthquakes. Do you notice a trend? It



is skyrocketing. In fact, this only goes to 2003. You go to 2015, and it spikes straight up; it literally spikes straight in the air. You talk about people who are following weather patterns, and they're freaking out. Something is happening.

Well, when you're familiar with the Apocrypha, the Apocrypha talks about the Earth as a womb. It talks about it as a womb, a womb in birth pains. And what happens when the contractions get closer, when the earth knows it's about to give birth to what? The resurrection of the dead. This is crazy. The earth is moving; the earth is speaking; the earth is bewailing in labor pains.

Let me take you back to the Apocrypha; I want to build on this. Nation rising against nation, kingdom against kingdom. Because what this says is that when Ezra is looking, he wants to know about the end of the age. He's asking the LORD, "Show it to me." What are they going to be the signs? He's asking the same question that the apostles asked Yeshua.

Well, let's look at this. —2 Esdras 13:29-32—<sup>29</sup> *The days are coming when the Most High will deliver those who are on the earth.* Us, those who confess Yeshua, the elect of God—He's going to deliver us. <sup>30</sup> *And bewilderment of mind shall come over those who inhabit the earth.* <sup>31</sup> *They shall plan to make war against one another, city against city, place against place, people against people, and kingdom against kingdom.* <sup>32</sup> *When these things take place and the signs occur.* These are the signs. The very signs Yeshua is talking about in Matthew Chapter 24. When these signs occur *that I showed you before, then my Son will be revealed, whom you saw as a man coming up from the sea.* Do you know how close we are to the LORD's return? This is powerful.

Jumping back to 2 Esdras 9:1-3—<sup>1</sup> *He answered me and said, "Measure carefully in your mind, and when you see that a certain part of the predicted signs have occurred,* pay attention to the signs. When you see these things have occurred, <sup>2</sup> *then you will know that it is the very time when the Most High is about to visit the world which he has made.* <sup>3</sup> *So when there shall appear in the world earthquakes.* There have always been earthquakes going back; we read about earthquakes in the Bible. It's talking about it on a massive level. It's talking about it on a global level that nobody can refute, that nobody can look away from. It's not saying it's not happening. So when there shall appear in the world earthquakes, *tumult of peoples, intrigues of nations, wavering of leaders, confusion of princes,*

Moving on to 2 Esdras 9:4-6—<sup>4</sup> *then you will know that it was of these that the Most High spoke from the days that were of old, from the beginning.* <sup>5</sup> *For just as with everything that has occurred in the world, the beginning is evident, and the end manifest;* <sup>6</sup> *so also are the times of the Most High: the beginnings are manifest in wonders and mighty works.* You think about creation. What was it? It was a wonder. Everything that He created was a wonder. It was a mighty work. Right? *And the end in requital and in signs.* In other words, requital—you're going to receive your just due. Payment for the iniquity—payment for this age of Esau—is coming, and it will be in signs. It's fascinating that you read these passages in the Apocrypha; they're saying the exact same thing. You could throw them right on top of Matthew 24; it's the exact same thing. The question is, can you read the signs?

Now, as we continue in Matthew Chapter 24, we're going to discover that Yeshua is going to isolate these signs that we went through. He's going to isolate these particular signs in regard to a timeline, in regard to the last days. Going back to Matthew 24:7-8—<sup>7</sup> *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.* Look around you; it's happening. *And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.* <sup>8</sup> *All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

All these are the beginnings of sorrows. It's interesting; a lot of translations do a better job of translating sorrows into birth pains. In Greek, it's *ōdin* (ὠδίν). It literally means birth pains. The very thing that the Apocrypha describes: this world as a womb. The womb of a mother that goes into birth pains, that goes into travail.

And what does He say? When we see the things we are seeing today, Russia testing the United States, the USA's airspace, and China getting subs and going past the borders, the United States borders, this is happening all over the world with different countries. The United States is flying drones into different countries. I mean, all of this is happening. The world is mounting for where we're looking at this, and Yeshua says, "It's the beginning." You have entered; you are entering into tribulation, into the birth pains of the Messiah, or into what is commonly called (Jeremiah 30:7), **"the time of Jacob's trouble."**

It's fascinating when you step back and look at the world right now; persecution is on the rise, at an exponential rate, against all those who call upon the name of Yeshua. They're literally being tortured; they're being beheaded for His name's sake, but not just that. And we have the signs, all the different signs converging with this, such as Israel and the fact that Israel's enemies are starting to encompass her. The nations are gathering around her because it's the beginning of Jacob's trouble. Have you been listening to the rhetoric lately that's coming from Iran and even from the UN and other countries in regard to Israel, of extinguishing them? That they're not even going to be a nation in 25 years. We'll see about that; we'll see about that. We'll see who's right.

Let me take you to Jeremiah Chapter 30. I want to show you the time, the biblical prophecy, the time of Jacob's trouble. Jeremiah 30:3-7—<sup>3</sup> **For behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,' says the LORD. 'And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.'** I ask you, where are the Jewish people today? They've been brought back to the land. They're inhabiting the land. <sup>4</sup> **Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah.** <sup>5</sup> **"For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 'Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? 'Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but here's the good news: but he shall be saved out of it.**

That's the ice cream, right? Keep your eye on this; this is the promise. Israel, despite everything she's going through, has reason to rejoice. Because in the end, it's in their favor. In the end, they will triumph. In the end, they will rise up. Their God is able to make them stand. Amen?

You know, if we're honest with ourselves, we look at what Yeshua describes as the beginning of tribulation; you need to be honest. You need to swallow the pill that we are entering into tribulation, according to Scripture, according to the Bible.

We're going to continue to look at the signs that will start unfolding. Going back to Matthew 24:9—**"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you,"** think ice cream, **"and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."** We're told that in the last days, one of the signs we need to be looking for is the fact that the entire world is going to hate a specific group of people. They're going to loathe this particular group of people to such an extent that they're going to kill them.

What is it about this particular group? What characteristic do they carry that breeds such hatred? Well, Yeshua tells us, look what He says, **"You will be hated by all nations for My name's sake."** (Emphasis



added). The entire world is going to come against those who bear the name of Yeshua; that's what's going to happen.

And let me ask you a question. What is it about His name that they are going to hate, that they are going to loathe? Do they not like the name Jesus? Does it not sound right? Does "Yeshua" just not sound good—is it offensive just to hear that? Are they offended? Think about this: Are people of the world offended by all the miracles that Yeshua performed? I mean, healing the sick and raising the dead—is that what is drawing this hatred? Is that the hatred that fills up within them? Is the fact that He showed kindness and compassion and love for people—is that what wells up this hatred inside of them to the extent that they're willing to kill believers in Yeshua?

Let me tell you exactly why we are going to be hated for His name's sake. I'm going to use Yeshua's own words. He says in John 7:7, **"The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me."** I want to be very clear: Yeshua just told us the world will hate you. Actually, when you go to John 15:18, He says, **"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."** So, I want you to understand the statement when He says, **"The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me."** In other words, the world will not hate you apart from Him. We're told scripturally (John 15:19), the world loves its own. So apart from Him, you will not be hated. But this is the reason; pay close attention because this is really going to open your eyes: **because I testify of it that its works are evil.** That's where the hatred will come out, and you're seeing it right now today.

You are seeing the hatred being fueled by people who would dare have the audacity to stand up for righteousness—people who bear the light of Yeshua within them when they go out. That's what they do; they bear light, and the darkness hates it and will not dwell with the light. Look at what Yeshua says in John 3:19-20—<sup>19</sup> **And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** <sup>20</sup> **For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.** Monumental sign of the times. It's a monumental sign of the times that people will no longer tolerate righteousness. They will no longer tolerate it. I ask you to look around. Do you think that we are embarking on the tribulation? Because this is one of the main signs that they will no longer tolerate it.

Isn't it interesting that governments all over the world, not just in America, are promoting abortions? They're making their citizens fund these things, embracing homosexuality, and making it law that a man can marry a man and a woman can marry a woman. The wicked are done with us. We are living in the age of Esau. They are done with us.

Yeshua goes on to say in Matthew 24:10, **"And then many will be offended, yes, will betray one another, and will hate one another."** It's interesting; there's a parallel passage. What Yeshua is saying here is exactly what He says in Matthew Chapter 10, but Matthew Chapter 10 shows you how close to home it hits because He starts talking about a father betraying a son and vice versa. And a mother and her daughter, where the division is coming in all over the name of Yeshua. This is how intimate it gets. This is how painful it gets.

Matthew 24:10-13—<sup>10</sup> ... They **will hate one another.** <sup>11</sup> **Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.** As you embark on this tribulation, what are we to be looking for? False prophets. They're going to rise up. Now, keep in mind from this perspective, you've got to understand this. They're not talking about pagans embracing whatever, going out and teaching evolution, and this, that, and the other. They're talking about men who confess the name of Yeshua. They're talking about men who

confess Jesus as LORD. And He says, "Many of them are going to rise, and they're going to deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

There's something mentioned here in this passage. One thing in particular that I want you to focus on is that it's not the fact that homes are going to be divided and there's going to be offense from one to another. It's not the fact that there are false prophets rising up, deceiving many. Instrumental, important, yes. It's the fact of this in Matthew 24:12, that lawlessness will abound. (Emphasis added).

One of the most significant signs of the time, and it works in tandem with what we were just talking about: being hated. The most significant signs of the times are right here in Matthew 24:12. This is the proof that we are at the very end of the age, when lawlessness abounds. Do you know what that means when it abounds? It's out of control; it can't be contained. I ask you, are we living in a society, a world where evil cannot be contained? I'm going to tell you, yes, we are. We are living right now in a world where evil is not being contained. It's running amok, so much so that it has breached the walls of the church where you have churches, like I said, celebrating and rejoicing that they did away with the law of God. That they're the Messiah. They've thrown out the law. When you throw out the law, you walk in lawlessness; you embrace it.

Things are so chaotic and so out of control; this is what has happened. The signs of the times are here; we are entering into the tribulation. Everything in Scripture is showing us this. All these signs—they are all present right now. You can't not say, "No, we're not entering into the tribulation." All these signs are converging; we're living it. You are living Scripture today. It makes you want to pinch yourself. This just can't be real. Because we're so used to just reading this as a good book, with good morals and good righteousness, and not as a book that we'd actually be living through. Very different from the way I've been reading the Bible lately. Scary and exciting, all at the same time.

I want to jump ahead, and we're going to build upon this concept of lawlessness even further. — Matthew 24:37 — But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. It's interesting that Yeshua brings us back to the days of Noah. See, apparently, Noah, the story of Noah, is a prophetic template of this age and specifically a time that comes right before the return of the LORD. You think about the days of Noah; we all know what happened, right? But when you think about that, He brings you back to the days of Noah. There was something happening in those days; there was a sign. And Yeshua is merely building upon what we just read.

Let me take you back there and show you what Yeshua is referring to. — Genesis 6:1-2—<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> that the sons of God saw the daughters of men. Let me be very clear: "the sons of God" is a reference to the angels. A particular group of angels, according to the Book of Enoch, fills in a lot of gaps. It was about 200, okay? It was about 200 angels; they made an oath together. They took an oath. These sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

This is so deep; there's so much here. We're not going to cover it today; maybe we'll dig into it in the coming weeks. There are some scary and amazing prophetic parallels that exist between this, what is spoken of here, and what has happened again. And we'll probably get into that, but the backdrop here is so amazing that the angels—just to kind of give you a little backdrop, if you read the Book of Enoch, the angels, we always think, "Oh, the angels came down, they were looking and lusting after women, and

they just fell into lust." But people fail to realize that when you actually read the Book of Enoch, it's way beyond that. The angels wanted something. The angels wanted something very, very specific, and when you read it, they wanted children. They wanted what God has given mankind. He has blessed mankind with the ability to have a heritage, and the angels wanted it. They wanted to bear children. And if you look at how God cursed them in the days of Noah, one of the things they were forced to do was watch the destruction of their children.

Well, there's a significant parallel. Again, we won't get into that, but I'll just give you some backdrop here. The angels come down, and as they come down, attempting to build a heritage for themselves, they start doing stuff. And this will come into play in the weeks to come, so listen to me carefully. They start perverting the truth. These fallen angels start teaching mankind charms and enchantments. They start teaching them the art of war. Making swords, knives, and shields. When they came down, it wasn't just that they wanted it. The way we experience these fallen angels, the way mankind experienced it, goes way beyond just them getting a heritage of children for themselves. They were perverters of truth, and it infected the world. This infectious sin just infected and kept infecting it and spread like a cancer.

Continuing on in Genesis 6:3-4—<sup>3</sup> And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." <sup>4</sup> There were giants, and in Hebrew, this is the famous term "*Nephilim*" (נְפִילִים). There were *Nephilim* on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. So here you have this whole backdrop.

We continue on; listen carefully. —Genesis 6:5—Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. So get this straight. The state of the world right before God rendered judgment upon it was in a total state of lawlessness. Lawlessness reigned. Righteousness had all but vanished. The light was being snuffed out. When you read in Revelation, what does *hasatan* (הַשָּׂטָן) do? He starts snuffing out the light. They start casting us, if you will, out of their kingdom. We're being cast out of the darkness and can't handle the light. They cast us out of this kingdom by killing us. That's fine because we have another kingdom waiting. Think about that. If it ever comes to a time where there are going to be pockets of insulation, we're told from Scripture that people will still be believers here alive at the coming of the LORD. But if you're not one of them, don't worry about it, because you're actually going to get resurrected first to meet the LORD in the air.

How does the LORD respond? This is important. When we go back to the days of Noah, Matthew 24:37, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." We know that the days of Noah are total lawlessness; it's unbridled sin. The very days we're living in now, but how does the LORD respond? This is how He responds in Genesis 6:6-7—<sup>6</sup> And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

The LORD comes to a point where He can't handle it anymore, where He becomes regretful. And when you see the LORD do this, and we talked about this in the story of Saul, what did He say? —1 Samuel 15:11—"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king ..." When the LORD utters those words, look for judgment, because it's coming. It comes to a point where He can't take it any longer, and that's when the pin is pulled.

Let me take you back to the Apocrypha because it expounds on what is happening here in Genesis, and it's going to give you a little deeper perspective on this. Look at what this says in 2 Esdras 5:1—[Now concerning the signs lo, the days are coming when those who inhabit the earth shall be seized with great terror, and the way of truth shall be hidden, and the land shall be barren of faith.](#) Now, you have to see, Second Esdras is referring to the very end of the age, the days we're living in today. And the comparison here between getting perspective on what's going on in the days of Noah and what is said here in regard to the end days—did you notice it says, "The way of truth shall be hidden"? It's going to be totally hidden.

It's fascinating when you think about all the biblical stories, such as the story of the Maccabees and the story of Antiochus Epiphanes. You read Daniel 8:12; that prophecy outlines what Antiochus did, and what does it say? ["... He cast truth down to the ground ..."](#) See, the expectation that we should have as believers of knowing what's going to happen is that the world is going to cast truth to the ground, and [the way of truth](#), as it says here, will [be hidden](#). [The land](#) is going to [be barren of faith](#).

Continuing in 2 Esdras 5:2—[Unrighteousness shall be increased beyond what you yourself see and beyond what you heard of formerly.](#) These are the signs that you know you're entering into tribulation. People, when the body parts of murdered children are being sold on the black market, I don't know what is going to constitute tribulation and lawlessness for you. To where things that we are doing today would make Sodom and Gomorrah blush. To do things like this was never even talked about in regard to Sodom and Gomorrah. It's unbelievable, and yet these are the days we're living in. This is why I'm impressing upon you, and this is why I'm making bold statements like, "I know from the signs we have entered into tribulation." The coming of the LORD is at hand. I can't say anything else; it's true.

Going back to Genesis, continuing on in Genesis 6:11—[The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence, \*hā-mās\* \(חַמָּס\).](#) The worst form, I mean, this is the vilest sin. Uncontrolled sin; total violence. I ask you, is the earth filled with violence? I mean, we have groups like ISIS running around unbridled, burning men alive, chopping people's heads off, and sticking them on stakes. You can't even believe it. It doesn't even sound real; it's so evil. There's such evil in this world right now. That's because Yeshua's coming back. That's because Yeshua's coming back; He's almost here.

Genesis 6:12-14—<sup>12</sup> [So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.](#) <sup>13</sup> [And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with \*hā-mās\*, violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.](#) <sup>14</sup> ["Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.](#)

That is fascinating to me because what He just said is a parallel statement to what Yeshua told His disciples. See, He recognized sin was coming. Sin is going to be unbridled; these are the signs of the times, but here's what you do. That's exactly what God did to Noah. God says, "It's uncontrolled; the sin's uncontrolled. You need to make an ark." In other words, "Listen to Me, listen to the words of My mouth, listen to the commandment, and you will live." Read the New Testament. All throughout the New Testament, Yeshua is reiterating that over and over again. Then the apostles go on reiterating that over and over again. Listen to Yeshua and you will live. Listen to Him.

Now, going to the Book of Enoch, Enoch does articulate this scenario of what's going on here, and listen to what he says about this whole thing, where God tells Noah it's time to build an ark. I want to give you a deeper perspective on what God was conveying. —Enoch 10:1-2—<sup>1</sup> [Then said the Most High, the Holy and Great One spake, and sent Uriel the son of Lamech, and said to him:](#) <sup>2</sup> ["go to Noah, and tell him in](#)

my name “Hide thyself!” Isn't that fascinating? One of the things God was communicating to him when He gave him the commandments was, “You should go build the ark.” What was the whole premise? You need to go hide yourself. Noah, as the world was embracing lawlessness and sin, what was Noah doing? He was obeying God. He was obeying the commandments of God. He was preparing for salvation. He was preparing for redemption. He was hiding himself.

Isn't that fascinating, because last week I quoted that proverb? That proverb says in Proverbs 22:3—**A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself ...** Are you actually seeing the evil in the world, and have you withdrawn from it, or are you still compromising and tasting the world because it tastes good? I'm going to tell you right now, if you're not pulling a Noah, if you're not hiding yourself from lawlessness, if you're not foreseeing evil and hiding yourself, you are in trouble. It is time to hide yourself.

It goes on to say, listen to this, Enoch 10:2— ... **“Hide thyself!”, and reveal to him**, meaning be revealed to Noah, **the end that is approaching: that the whole earth will be destroyed ...** (Emphasis added). Noah, as he was building this ark, did so with the understanding that the LORD is coming with destruction. I ask you, read Matthew Chapter 24. Did not Yeshua; does He not do the same? Does He not tell us what is coming? Destruction is coming; judgment is coming.

The things that the apostles taught—what did they teach? When they went out, we forget that part of the gospel message is that judgment is coming. A perfect example is Paul speaking to a high-ranking official of the Roman province in Acts 24:25—**Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and what? The judgment to come, Felix, who was a governor, was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”** I want to be able to convey the gospel message where I'm getting a response like this. This guy was struck to the heart. He was trembling in fear. The way Paul articulated the end, the necessity for righteousness—the necessity for Yeshua. He did so in such a manner that this guy couldn't hear it anymore; it freaked him out. That's spreading the gospel in power. His words hit the mark; they hit him. He had to deal with it, and we don't know how Felix ultimately went, but he had to deal with that. This is the boldness that we have to have in these end times. It's the boldness to speak righteousness.

I'm going to close today by taking you to Luke, which is the parallel to what Yeshua is going through in Matthew Chapter 24. Only something else—Yeshua adds something else to it. — Luke 17:26-27—<sup>26</sup> **And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.** I mean, it's going to come like that. I'm telling you, if we're entering into tribulation as I suspect we are, and Scripture tells me and everything in my environment tells me we are, the coming of the LORD is going to come just as it said over and over and over again (2 Peter 3:10), **“as a thief in the night.”** That's how it's going to come, as a thief in the night, just like it came upon the inhabitants of the earth in the days of Noah.

Then listen to this; see, Matthew doesn't record this part. He goes on in Luke 17:28-30—<sup>28</sup> **Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.** Two things to note. You look at the days of Noah, and you look at the days of Lot. What do we know about both circumstances that led to the judgment? Both had unbridled sin; they were reveling in lawlessness. And now look at us; this is where we're at today.

We're going to close here for today. The worship team can come up as I pray. Let's bow our heads.

*[Closing prayer]*

Father God, we just give You praise and glory. We thank You that we are believers who have hope. We thank You for salvation. LORD Yeshua, we just pray for Your outpouring of Your Spirit and the reality of the relationship that You promised us—that when You went away, You said it's good that You go away because You would send the Spirit. And I keep reminding You of that, LORD. You promised You would send the Spirit to have that intimate relationship so that when things start to really fall apart very soon, in the days to come upon us, we will not be shaken. It talks about everything that is on the earth, and the heavens that can be shaken will be shaken. If we are sons and daughters, we are not to be shaken. We are to be preserved. We're to be sanctified. We're to be set apart, LORD.

And, LORD, I just pray for Your protection, Your spiritual protection on this community. It's just overwhelming that we can feel Your presence, LORD, that we may go in Your strength, that we may walk in Your commandments, and that we may not be intimidated by the world and the boisterous attitude of lawlessness that wants to shut us down, that wants to shut us out.

LORD, I pray that we stand for truth in these last days. And LORD, I pray that You have mercy and give us opportunities to spread the gospel, to spread the name of Yeshua so that people can be saved. We know why You have delayed Your coming: because You're not willing that any should perish, and that's why we love You so much—because You're so gracious and merciful.

How we cherish those attributes, LORD, especially as we're coming up to Yom Kippur this coming week. The greatest attribute, the one that is beyond compare, that you cannot even articulate, is the forgiveness of sins. That we were doomed to death and destruction; the power of death in Hades had power over us until Your resurrection. The power of Your resurrection. There is power in who You are, LORD Yeshua. You have the power to save. And we call upon that power in these last days.

We pray for the Jewish people scattered abroad. We pray for the nation of Israel. We pray for the leaders of Israel. LORD, I pray that they fall to their knees to confess the name Yeshua, the King of the Jews, the Mashiach Ben David, the true Son of David, the rightful heir to their kingdom, to the one true kingdom, the kingdom of heaven. So we just pray for these things in the mighty name of Yeshua. Amen.