

Finding the End of the World

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SCHEDULE

SESSIONS 1 & 2:	9:00 – 10:30 AM
INTRODUCTION	
GOOD GUYS	
BREAK	10:30 – 10:45 AM
SESSION 3:	10:45 – 12:00 PM
BAD GUYS	
LUNCH BREAK	12:00 – 1:15 PM
SESSIONS 4, 5, & 6:	1:15 – 2:45 PM
INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART I	
INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART II	
INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART III	
BREAK	2:45 – 3:00 PM
SESSIONS 7 & 8	3:00 – 4:00 PM
INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART IV	
THE END . . .	
Q&A	

Why We're Here

What I hope to accomplish today: Give you the tools to gain a better understanding of end-times events while developing a passion for all of God's words and ways.

Specific Goals:

1. Clear our minds of traditions.
2. Understand why knowing this information is important.
3. Increase faith through learning.
4. Learn through a proper approach.
5. Understand what Scripture and history state about the end of time.
6. Understand challenges presented by man's wisdom.

INTRODUCTION

Topics:

- ✓ Why Worry About This?
- ✓ Faith – Truth or Consequences
- ✓ How to Study...or Not!
- ✓ A Glimpse of the End
- ✓ Brief history of Israel & the Temple

This first session will lay the foundation for the rest of the study by helping us understand that we must continually immerse ourselves in the study of God's Word and by teaching us how to do this effectively. Otherwise, we may be deceived about anything regarding God and His ways to include the end-times events.

Being scripturally ignorant can be deadly as we'll learn in this module. Together, we'll gain a better understanding of what faith is and how to gain and keep it. You'll learn this will be done primarily through the proper study of Biblical Scripture. Unless there's a very good reason to do otherwise, we'll always take a literal approach to studying God's Word in an attempt to understand the writer's intended message.

Although it may be confusing and a little "too much too soon," we'll whet your appetite by introducing the sequence of the end to keep things interesting.

Additionally, we'll fly through a complete history of the Jews. Why is this important? Prophecies and apocalyptic unveilings were written during, and pertained to, certain eras in Jewish history. Understanding these prophecies and warnings will be easier if you also know the historical context of the writer or the intended audience. Therefore, I've divided the entire Jewish history into eras that correspond to the reign of "beast" kingdoms and highlighted kings and prophets of each timeframe. For instance, the prophet Daniel foretold of the future Persian, Greek, Roman, and Antichrist kingdoms. We'll cover historical divisions about each of these empires.

Finally, although it may seem irrelevant or insignificant, we'll briefly discuss the history of God's temples and look at the prospect of a future temple as foretold in Scripture. The view is important because it is yet another concrete piece of Jewish prophecy to be fulfilled near the end of time.

GOOD & BAD PLAYERS

Topics:

- ✓ Key End-times Players
- ✓ The Elect Bride
- ✓ The Antichrist

In this session, we'll cover many of the key end-times players such as the two witnesses who'll preach the Gospel during the 3.5-year Great Tribulation of the Antichrist and those who'll be decapitated for their faith during that terrible time. We'll also introduce the 144,000 who'll be sealed by God for protection against His wrath following the time of Great Tribulation. Scripture speaks of tribulation against God's people – Jew and Gentile alike – throughout history, but this future time of tribulation against the “elect” will be like no other.

Contrary to popular belief, the Great Tribulation and God's wrath will be two separate events. The Great Tribulation will target God's chosen (Jew, and all followers of Christ) at the hand of the Antichrist for 3.5 years. God's wrath will follow and be a judgment against those who remain on the earth after followers of the Messiah (both dead and alive) are taken at the end of the Great Tribulation period.

We'll discuss the “elect” in hopes of dispelling the myth that the term applies only to Jews. The misunderstanding is untrue, especially in the New Testament. We'll also compare and contrast our relationship with the Messiah to a typical Jewish couple and their marriage.

Conversely, we'll also discuss the opposite of God's chosen to include a brief description of Satan and a very thorough overview of the Antichrist.

BAD GUYS (Cont.)

Topics:

- ✓ The Dragon – Satan
- ✓ The Antichrist
- ✓ Babylon: Harlot & Great City
- ✓ Deceivers: Tares, False Prophets, & False Messiahs

In this third session, we'll explore the characteristics of Satan and the Antichrist he'll empower. Subtopics we'll cover include:

- Names Scripture uses to label the Antichrist
- Makeup of this future kingdom
- The “covenant of death” that will kick off a final 7-year period
- The “Great Tribulation” that will last for the second half of the final 7-year period
- Mark of the “beast”

You'll learn that the Antichrist and his kingdom will be Middle-Eastern in makeup – not blonde-haired, blue-eyed, and European as some prophetic and entertainment-oriented sources have stated. And that the “mark of the beast” won't be something as simple as a tattoo or RFID chip. Wisdom will indeed be necessary as Bible states!

We'll also broach a very difficult and controversial subject: The identity of the “whore of Babylon.” What you'll discover is that “she” will most likely be unfaithful Israel *and* the location of the Antichrist's reign: Jerusalem.

Finally, we'll also talk about the people who deceive even those who are God and Christ's. Examples will include past false Messiahs along with an exploration of from where the future False Prophet and False Messiah may come.

INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART I

Topics:

- ✓ Introduction to the Apocalypse
- ✓ Daniel Chapters 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, & 12
- ✓ Other Old Testament Prophets
- ✓ Mount of Olives Discourse
- ✓ Peter and Paul Weigh In

Our first-afternoon session will bombard you with a flood of prophecy and apocalyptic writings related to the end of the world. Most significant: a complete overview of most of the book of Daniel and a side-by-side comparison of the *Mount of Olives* discussion.

A thorough understanding of Daniel's visions and his interpretation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream is important and foundational to any valuable study of the Revelation later given by Christ to John!

Here's what you'll learn:

- Daniel forecasted the coming Messiah and His crucifixion, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the end-times authority of the Antichrist.
- Other Old Testament (OT) prophets foresaw the Messiah's first visit and His end-times kingdom.
- Those OT seers also saw the incredible destruction of God's wrath and subsequent kingdoms of Christ and of the new age to follow.
- Jesus gave His disciples advanced warning of Jerusalem's destruction and the future Great Tribulation. The Messiah also gave plenty of signs and warnings to keep us on our toes! We'll compare/contrast all three accounts of this discussion on the Mount of Olives to give you a complete picture of this near-far prophecy.

We'll then present an overview of what Peter and Paul had to say about the end of the age. Paul's writings are very important to our study because they corroborate what Jesus told His disciples and confirm that the Messiah was speaking to ALL people while on the Mount of Olives, not just the Jews as some eschatological positions prescribe.

INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART II

Topics:

- ✓ Introduction to the Revelation
- ✓ Revelation 1 – 8:1

Then, we'll embark upon a thorough look at the Revelation given to John by the same Christ who first told His disciples of these very things on the Mount of Olives.

Specific subtopics we'll learn about:

- Letters from Christ to the messengers of seven churches of Asia Minor.
- The breaking of the scroll with seven seals to reveal events that would occur from Christ's time until the end.
 - False Messiahs (seal #1)
 - War (seal #2)
 - Famine/earthquakes (seal #3)
 - Death & persecution during the Great Tribulation (seals #4 & #5)
 - The darkening of the sun, moon, and stars – a landmark that signals the gathering of Christ's followers and the coming wrath (seal #6)
 - Silence in heaven just before the beginning of God's wrath against the rest of the world (seal #7)
- The sealing of 144,000 by God as protection against His impending wrath (they'll be on earth with Christ during the time of the wrath)
- The gathering of Christ's followers at the end of the Great Tribulation

INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART III

Topics:

- ✓ Revelation 8:2 – 13

After the complete overview offered by the breaking of the seals, we'll cover the first half of God's wrath (Chapters 8-9) which will end with the 7th trumpet. The event is significant because it will mark the end of the last 7-year period – the conclusion of the 3.5-year authority of the Antichrist, in particular.

Chapters 11-13 detail that 3.5-year time of the Antichrist (Great Tribulation) from several different perspectives:

- Chapter 11: The 3.5-year ministry of the two witnesses, who'll be killed and then resurrected at the time of the 7th trumpet.
- Chapter 12: The 3.5-year persecution of God's people to include those who "hold to the testimony of Jesus." This chapter is full of tasty morsels such as:
 - The position of the constellations at the time of the end.
 - The war in heaven that hasn't happened yet
 - Protection of what will probably be the 144,000 at Petra (you'll learn about OT prophecies related to this)
- Chapter 13: The 3.5-year time of the Antichrist, his kingdom, and his False Prophet. Followers of Christ will still be on earth during this time and endure hardships beyond belief. This chapter also includes encouragement along with warnings to not align with the Antichrist (e.g., through the "mark of the beast").

INSIGHT & REVELATION – PART IV

Topics:

- ✓ Revelation 14 – 22

A study of these chapters will begin with events that will happen at or near the end of the 3.5-year period covered in chapters 11-13 and will include:

- A peek at the 144,000 who'll be with Christ as He gains His kingdom at the 7th trumpet.
- Preaching of the Gospel one last time to all inhabitants of the earth just before the end.
- Christ's gathering of His followers and the wrath against all else in the form of two harvests at the conclusion of the 3.5-year period.

Chapters 15 & 16 detail the second and final phase of God's wrath in the form of 7 vial judgments.

An overview of chapters 17 & 18 will produce a better understanding of the end-times "Babylon," which will be destroyed during the last half of God's wrath outlined in chapters 15-6. Additionally, we'll receive a reminder of Israel's end-times role as God's unfaithful bride and Jerusalem as the location of the Antichrist's rule.

God's wrath will conclude in Chapter 19 at the battle of Armageddon. An overview of this chapter will also introduce the marriage of the bride to the Messiah and tell you of the disposition of the Antichrist and False Prophet.

Chapter 20 provides a look at the time of Christ's kingdom on earth as foretold by OT prophets. Satan will be bound during this time but will be released for a short time at the end of Christ's 1,000-year kingdom to again gather the kingdoms of the earth for war against God. Satan will finally meet his end by being thrown into the lake of fire, as will everyone else judged and condemned at the conclusion of Christ's kingdom on earth.

We'll get a preview of the new age, and God's coming perpetual kingdom in chapters 21-22. Our study of the Revelation will end with a reflection of the staunch warnings given by Christ:

- The Revelation is for the servants of the church (not some "tribulation force")
- We must NOT change the Revelation. In my opinion, the "adding to" or "taking away" from it in Christ's warning include claiming that it is symbolic, telling the church that it won't be applicable, or that it's not a sequential unveiling.

THE END...

Topics:

- ✓ The Millennial Reign – Fact or Fiction
- ✓ The Timing of Christ's Second Coming
- ✓ Eschatological Challenges
- ✓ Review & Conclusion

In this final session, we'll get to discuss different views concerning Christ's return to earth and a 1,000-year kingdom. We'll also look at challenges presented by each viewpoint.

You may be tempted to become upset during this part of our presentation, as your views and beliefs will most likely be challenged. Instead of becoming offended, I encourage you to conduct a personal and thorough study of this topic and all related Scripture before deciding your end-times position.

Our study will conclude with a review of critical topics.

