



Class 1, Wednesday, March 22, 2023

“Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” Matthew 24:4-6, NIV

1. We need to study God’s word diligently, for we do not want to be among those who are deceived.
2. We need to remind ourselves that we shouldn’t be alarmed by all the bad news. Jesus is in control.

Preliminary Thoughts on the Future

1. **This is a c_____ study,** for the Bible is clear on some things; not as clear on others.
2. **This is a c_____ study.** Genuine Bible scholars differ dramatically. We can’t be arrogant or dogmatic.
3. **This is a B_____ study.** We only have one source for this study.

Things To Come!

Differing theories are more about the “order” than the “events.” Here are Biblical elements of the end times in random order.

1. **G_____ E_____:** The gospel will go to the ends of the Earth.
2. **The T_____:** An intense seven-year period of horrible calamities and judgment

3. **Rise of the A_____:** An enemy (or spirit) who will oppose Jesus in everything and may even deceive believers.
4. **The G_____ A_____:** The visible return of Jesus to the Earth for all to see.
5. **T_____ times in the e_____ times:** Increasing wars and disasters as we get closer to the end.
6. **A_____:** A horrible war (or series of wars) that will nearly destroy the Earth.
7. **The R_____:** Believers rise into the air to go to Jesus.
8. **The M_____:** A 1000-year period in which Jesus reigns on Earth.
9. **E_____:** Our final home in heaven or hell.
10. **The F_____ j_____:** The judgment seat of God that all people will stand before.

Millennial Theories

1. Premillennialists – Jesus will return before the millennium.
2. Postmillennialists – Jesus will return after the millennium.
3. Amillennialists – The millennium is not a literal period but is symbolic of a great time of gospel expansion.

Rapture/Tribulation Theories

1. “Pre-tribbers” believe that the rapture occurs before the tribulation, followed by the glorious appearing.
2. “Mid-tribbers” put the rapture midway in the tribulation.
3. “Post-tribbers” believe there is one return (the rapture and glorious appearing are the same) after the tribulation.

Theories are combined: A pre-tribulationist pre-millennialist is common. There is more to it as well—there are differing theories about the relationship of Old Testament Israel and the church

IMPORTANT: These theories are all legitimate attempts to put the Biblical clues in their proper order with the proper understanding.