

When you hear phrases like “the end times” or “Jesus is coming back,” what’s the first thing that comes to mind? Probably a variety of cults or people screaming “the end is near” on the side of the road, right? Sadly, this is a great misunderstanding among people today, both Christians and non-Christians alike. Important topics such as Jesus’ return, and all that He warned us of in the latter times are left untouched, simply because of negative experiences, or even just because we’re too comfortable with our lives as they are. Today, I would just like to try to break these negative misconceptions, and get people back on track with a Biblical outlook on everything, in hopes of encouraging everybody everywhere to just take a serious look around them, and to turn wholeheartedly to Jesus, who is our only hope in both life and death.

A quick heads up before we continue-- I did my best to condense this all and make it relatively short, but it really is hard to cover this all in a proper amount of depth without giving too little or too much information. So please bear with me, and trust me that you will want to hear all of this, and if there’s something you’d like to know more about afterwards, please feel free send me questions either through Instagram messages or email!

The first thing I would like to get out of the way is the common concern that many share, the “bad taste” people have in their mouths from the many people and cults over the years who have obsessed over the Second Coming of Christ and the end times. Most of which have twisted the Word of God, or just completely misinterpreted it, and used it as an excuse for evil acts and other heinous things. Sadly, people have been so scarred by these various cults and groups, that even many Christians tend to dismiss Jesus’ Second Coming as the psychotic delusions of a lunatic. You tell someone about Jesus coming back, and they’re probably going to think you’re a conspiratorial cult member. It’s tragic. So let’s clear up this misconception, and stop listening to all of these wacko cults, and instead look at things as they really are, from the lens of God’s very own Word-- the Bible.

Unlike many of these cults, we should not be “doomsday” people who huddle up and hide in bunkers, that’s absurd. BUT, neither should we just pretend like everything is normal and act as if nothing’s happening. Jesus wants His followers to be aware of the times we’re in, to be watchful, to be ready for His return. He told us so in His Word! And naturally, a Christian who believes their Lord could return at any moment is going to be a far more effective Christian, a Christian who is going to both seek the Lord and share the Good News of His salvation more fervently. It’s probably a big reason why the early church was so on fire-- they truly believed that their Lord could return for them at any time, and how much more should we, as we see all the signs unfolding before our very eyes, as we have actual reason to believe His return truly is closer than ever? How much more should we be on fire for the Lord, truly seeking Him and sharing the Good News of the Gospel with every living creature? We live in a dark world, and sadly it’s only going to get darker. You only need to watch the news for a few minutes to know that. People need to know the hope that is available to them in Christ alone. Not in the right political leaders or money, medication, possessions, not in anything or anyone. It’s all about Jesus, and He is the only one who can save us. True life, hope and meaning is found in him.

This life-- this world-- isn't it. The Bible describes the human life as a quickly vanishing mist, or grass that dies in the morning. It's quick, it's short. But eternity is forever.

So let's not just brush this off as nothing, let's not be blissfully unaware or even purposefully ignorant. Jesus Himself warned and encouraged Christians to be watchful and aware of the times we're in, because He said that Christians would be "ASLEEP" AKA oblivious, and unaware during the time around His return, and non-Christians would be scoffing.

This is what Peter says about this in 2 Peter, 3:4. "They will say, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.'" Tragically, it seems today that not only are non-Christians scoffing, but many Christians as well. "People have been saying Jesus is coming back for a long time," is maybe one of the most common responses I've heard. And that's pretty much exactly what Peter says they will be saying too. Peter goes on to say this a few verses later-- "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." 2 Peter 3:8-9 God is being merciful towards us, giving people more time to turn to Him, because He doesn't want anyone to perish, to die in their sin. It's yet just another stunning example of the steadfast love, mercy and grace He has, and still is, showing towards us today.

But sadly, I think the endless number of cults and people over the years who have been made infamous for their rather extremist takes on the Second Coming of Christ-- the end times-- have created this "boy who cried wolf" issue in our world today.

It's why Jesus gave us the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25, a parable that exhorts Christians to be ready, to be watchful, not ignorant of the times we are in, but eagerly waiting for our dear Lord's return. Jesus uses the example of an ancient Jewish wedding ceremony to illustrate what it will be like when He returns for the church, and it really is a very clear and vivid example. ("The church," by the way, is just a collective name for believers in Jesus).

In one of their marriage customs-- during the betrothal period -- the groom would be preparing a place for his new wife, a home with him. However, the bride had no idea when the groom would come to get her. She knew neither the day nor the hour. This is why the bride would have her oil lamps ready at all times, because it was very much a possibility the groom would come in the night! So it was important to remain alert and ready, because at any time the groom could sound the shofar horn, and would then lead the bridal procession to the home that he had prepared for his bride. We can see the clear connections here-- from the simple fact that Christians in Jesus are referred to as "the bride of Christ," and how a groom has to go prepare a home for his bride, just as Jesus told His disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:3). And even the shofar horn that signalled the arrival of the groom-- in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, the Apostle Paul describes how "...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

There are of course several things we can take away from this-- such as the beautiful reality of how much God loves us, and how clearly that is shown through His illustration of this marriage ceremony. The God who made the universe and all things in it wants a close and personal relationship with each of us, how He wants our individual hearts-- isn't that insane??

The next big takeaway of course is that much like the bride had to be ready and prepared for her groom to arrive at any moment, to take her to her new and permanent home with her husband, so should we as Christians be ready, on alert for our Lord to come at any time, and to take us home to be with Him forever. So we shouldn't be ignorant about these things, we should not dismiss this all as crazy talk, like we often do. Because time and time again, the Bible encourages and warns Christians to be aware of the times we're in, and to be ready for our Lord. As Christians, we should embrace every word of the Bible as true, and if we claim to do so, we should just as readily embrace the fact that Jesus told us He is coming again, and that there are many signs today indicating that His return is closer than ever.

> Really quickly, as sort of a sidenote, I think I better clarify something before we go any further. There's a difference between the Rapture-- when Jesus comes to take Christians to be with Him forever-- and the Second Coming-- when Jesus physically returns to this Earth and a lot of stuff ensues after that. The prophecies and signs we have regarding the last days point to Jesus' physical return, HOWEVER since the Rapture most definitely occurs BEFORE Jesus returns (we aren't getting into a debate today about the timing lol), I think that shortens the time even more so, because if Jesus' return is this close, how much sooner is the Rapture, an event that will happen in the "twinkling of an eye", as the Apostle Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, and after the Rapture occurs, then begins the 7 year Tribulation period on the Earth, as detailed in Revelation chapters 6-18. I'm not going to be talking about the Rapture or the Tribulation or any of these specifics super in-depth right now, because the point of this devo is to encourage Christians to have awareness and watchfulness of the times we're in, to get serious about their walk with Jesus, to not waste our lives, and to encourage non-Christians to make the decision TODAY to turn to Jesus, and embrace Him as their Lord and Savior while the opportunity is still available. But back to the main point.

Now, what exactly did Jesus say about the timing of His return? What did He say would characterize the times leading up to it, and can we be sure that we are indeed in those times? If we take a look at Jesus' statement in Luke 21:7-12, we can find some of the answers there.

"And they asked (Jesus), 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' And (Jesus) said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then He said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and

persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for My name's sake.” Luke 21:7-12

And to add onto that list, it's also important to note that in Matthew 24:8, Jesus refers to all of these things as “BIRTH PAINS.”

So let's break this all down!

The first thing we should tackle is that Jesus likened all of these events to birth pains. People claiming to be the Messiah, nations rising against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, and persecution to name a few. What exactly did He mean by likening these things to “birth pains”?

Well, many agree that these “birth pains” began when Israel became a nation again in 1948. This was a significant event, because not only was it an absolute MIRACLE for a nation that had ceased to exist for about 2,000 years to be RE-established as a nation AND with their culture and language still completely intact, BUT it was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. You see, Israel was scattered in 70 AD, a little less than 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection, just as He told them they would be, and since then, they were pretty much just all over the place, dispersed among the nations. BUT, 2,000 years later, they became a nation once more, just as God had promised they would. Speaking of Israel, thousands of years before their re-establishment, He said “I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.” (Ezekiel 34:13) This is just one example of a verse speaking of Israel becoming a nation again-- there are more, but for the sake of brevity that is the only one I will cite. But this was an incredibly major event, because it was such a clear fulfillment of a huge Biblical prophecy. And so with Israel being a nation once more, everything else could finally begin to fall into place.

So many agree that the ball really started rolling once Israel was re-established. And since then, that's exactly what has been happening, Bible prophecies have been fulfilled left and right, and in an increasing frequency as the years have gone on. The birth pains have been increasing. Now, if you know anything about childbirth, you probably know about contractions. There's two types of contractions-- Braxton-Hicks contractions, and REAL contractions. Braxton-Hicks contractions tend to happen rather randomly, and can occur as early as the second trimester, but are really only there to prepare the body for the real thing. However, REAL contractions occur at regular intervals, much nearer to labor, and happen closer together, increasing in both strength and frequency as labor gets closer. And that's exactly what we see happening now. Since Israel had become a nation again, these things started happening more, and more, and MORE, and lately, **especially** in these last few years, things have been going at warp speed. It is widely agreed that we are now in the true birth pains. ***Now, as you listen on, it's IMPORTANT to keep in mind that** many of these signs we're about to talk about have already been occurring for quite some time, HOWEVER, remember how birth pains work! They

happen early on, BUT increase in frequency and strength as labor gets closer and closer. And that's what we are seeing today, ALL of these things are happening simultaneously, in greater frequencies and higher intensities. Though these things have been going on for some time, note how they have been becoming so extreme in these days. . . so just keep that in mind as we go on.

[if you're interested in a deeper look into all this stuff, in the description for this video I will be sure to include some resources that go into this stuff with much more detail than I.]

- **Nation against nation**

Now here's something incredibly interesting! In the original Greek, the word nation is "ethnos," which is where we get the word "ethnic" from, as in ethnic group. I don't really even have to say anything much here, because if you've watched literally any of the news in the past few years now, you will know how high the racial tensions have become recently. It's beyond tragic to see such division, to see how this issue alone has just absolutely torn apart not only America, but the whole world. Racism has been an issue for a very long time, but in these days it seems to have reached a peak, many agreeing that racial tensions have been at an alltime high these last 2 or 3 years especially, becoming a hot button topic among politicians. The hatred and violence this has sparked also points to yet ANOTHER sign Jesus gave us in Matthew 24:12, where He said that "...because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." This is clearly seen today as racial tensions have been the cause for much chaos, and increased the hatred in our world.

- **Famines**

Here's an ironic and telling article title to open up this next section with. "United Nations Official Warns of 'Famines of Biblical Proportions' in 2021." We can see in one of the UN's own articles, they warn about the threat of a "catastrophic" global famine, being the result of a variety of factors-- natural disasters, the pandemic, skyrocketing prices, and so on. The UN also says that 45 million people in 43 different countries are on the brink of famine. All things that seem to be converging together all at the SAME time to create this rather perfect storm. Again, as we said before, God works through natural means, and honestly, why wouldn't He? He made this world and everything in it. It is His creation. And so it makes sense He would use His creation to bring about His purposes, as He has all along. God does indeed do supernatural things, as we call them, but we forget His hand is in all of the natural as well.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/ga12294.doc.htm>

- Natural disasters

The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) released a report in March of 2021, stating this: “On top of a decade of exacerbated disaster loss, exceptional global heat, retreating ice and rising sea levels, humanity and our food security face a range of new and unprecedented hazards, such as megafires, extreme weather events, desert locust swarms of magnitudes previously unseen, and the (...) pandemic.”

FAO. 2021. The impact of disasters and crises on agriculture and food security: 2021. Rome <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3673en>

The NCEI (National Centers for Environmental Information) stated in their data that “During the first nine months of 2021, there have been 18 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events across the United States” and that **“2021 is off to a record pace for number of events during the first nine months of any year.** 2021 also follows the year 2020 that set the new annual record of 22 events - shattering the previous annual record of 16 events that occurred in 2011 and 2017. **2021 is the seventh consecutive year (2015-2021) in which 10 or more billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events have impacted the United States.**” And that’s just talking about the *United States*.

On this same topic, other sources such as Power Over Energy and Vision of Humanity discuss in their own findings how natural disasters are increasing on a GLOBAL scale, both in their frequency and ferocity, and that since 1970, natural disasters have QUADRUPLED. There’s an NBC News headline that reads “Think 2020’s disasters are wild? Experts say the worst is yet to come.” WELP. It’s no secret that natural disasters are increasing. And no doubt, you’ve probably heard people crediting the world’s worsening condition to climate change. I’m here to tell you today that they’re both wrong AND right. Yes, the earth IS indeed changing, and certainly not for the better. Natural disasters ARE increasing, but it’s not entirely for the reason they think. As mentioned earlier, the book of Revelation details a lot of interesting events to come, such as that 7yr Tribulation. And in that Tribulation, there are going to be some EXTREME natural disasters going on, among a plethora of other things. It makes sense that a widely God-hating world would credit such things to global warming, rejecting the fact that it’s actually God’s wrath being poured out on the unbelieving world that refuses to repent from their sins, and continues instead to reject Him. People forget that since God created and sustains everything, He often uses very natural means and circumstances to accomplish His will, so what the world may seem as climate change, is really God’s warning sign to the world that hey! Clock is ticking! I’m coming back soon! You need to turn to ME! These disasters are of course, the increasing birth pains as we get ever closer to the Lord’s return. The fact they are getting so bad in both frequency and severity should show us how close we are getting. Crazy to think this is just ONE sign out of MANY.

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2021). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73

<https://poweroverenergy.org/natural-disasters-are-increasing-in-frequency-and-severity-how-can-we-better-prepare/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_earthquakes

<https://www.visionofhumanity.org/global-number-of-natural-disasters-increases-ten-times/>

- **Pestilences**

This one's pretty obvious. While there have been many sicknesses and diseases over the years, I'm sure you all know the current sickness that has been sweeping our world for almost two years now. I will not be mentioning it by name, as I don't want to risk having this video "go poof", since social media tends to be very strict about this topic.

We've seen our fair share of sicknesses and diseases over the years, but I am sure that none have compared to the 2+ year pandemic we're still currently in. I remember a few years back when we had the whole ebola scare, but it certainly didn't end up coming even close to what this current pandemic has done, practically turning our entire world upside down. It's hard to comprehend how much it really changed everything, how different the world was before it all hit. The fact this pandemic has lasted so long and has wreaked so much havoc-- God is truly trying to get this world's attention. Could He make it any more obvious? These "birth pains" are increasing. We are getting so close.

<https://healthmap.org/en/>

- **Wars and rumors of wars**

Another thing we have heard plenty of in recent times is war.

If we look at the statistics, there's a pretty hefty list of ongoing conflicts. As of now in the oh so "fantastic" year of 2021, there are 4 *major* wars, 19 wars, and 25 minor conflicts, all involving a vast majority of the countries on Earth. That's a total of **48** current wars going on, NOT counting the skirmishes and clashes also happening. They range from minor conflicts (with 100-1000 deaths per year) to major wars (10,000 plus deaths per year, although the number is typically much higher). While there may not be war IN every country, almost every country is involved in these wars.

*Please also note that these all differ in their fatality counts, major wars having over 10,000 deaths per year, wars having between 1,000-10,000 deaths per year, and minor conflicts having between 100-1,000 deaths per year.

Of course, this doesn't even include the constant "rumors of wars" we have going on with the potential conflicts with other countries, the DRAMA, the blame-games, most of which dominate the news quite frequently.

On the topic of war and violence, the United Nations published an article about how while war related deaths may be declining, violence is still very much on the rise, just in different forms.

The United Nations states that "The nature of conflict and violence has transformed substantially since the UN was founded 75 years ago. Conflicts now tend to be less deadly and often waged between domestic groups rather than states. Homicides are becoming more frequent in some parts of the world" and that "...technological advances have raised concerns about lethal autonomous weapons and cyberattacks, the weaponization of bots and drones, and

the livestreaming of extremist attacks. There has also been a rise in criminal activity involving data hacks and ransomware, for example.”

United Nations. "A New Era of Conflict and Violence." United Nations, www.un.org/en/un75/new-era-conflict-and-violence.

We very much live in a new era of conflict and violence, an era where wars can be waged very differently with all of the insane technology mankind has now. So while there are certainly wars still going on today, and quite a handful at that, with rumors always floating about, we also have this general increase in violence, many news sources in recent weeks even discussing how homicide rates are soaring. This can all be broken down as lawlessness-- which we are told would increase greatly in the last days.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts

- **False Christs and False Prophets**

Though I certainly could, I don't think I need to list people here, but rather I'll just give you the warning signs and you can see how they measure up for yourselves. There is an endless list of the number of people either claiming to be the Messiah, or some prophet with new revelation or information regarding God or the Bible, despite the fact that it is REPEATEDLY and CLEARLY stated in the Bible that it is complete and finished, and the non-negotiable vital importance of neither adding anything to the Bible, nor taking anything away from it. The Apostle Paul warned against those who would either add or take away from God's Word, and many of these false prophets and false Christs have attempted to do exactly that. Just read the book of Galatians in the Bible-- the Apostle Paul was battling against the very, and warned sternly against those who would claim anything contrary to God's Word. "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." - Galatians 1:8. And even Jesus warned of wolves in sheep's clothing.

False Christs and false prophets will always deny the truth of the Bible in one way or another. That's how you can spot them. Anyone who claims to be Messiah, or some sort of other savior, despite the fact He's already been very clearly revealed (Jesus Christ) or claims to have some other revelation from God that is contrary to the Bible, either adding something to it, or taking away from it.. Or of course, the obvious of just preaching something completely and entirely different altogether, denying God's own Word. Though, when I think of false prophets and Christs, I think more of those who take SOME of what the Bible says, but twist it into something else, as I've seen a LOT in many cults, especially those centered around doomsday stuff. These groups always tend to put some emphasis on people, or pleasure, or something other than Jesus, Who is the only one we should be centered on and the only one deserving of our devotion and worship-- the one true God and Savior. A clear example today of how this is reaching its peak today is how the top Jewish rabbis claimed to have been recently "meeting with the Messiah." This on it's own of course, is SIGNIFICANT. Israel will not recognize that Jesus is the true Messiah until later on during the Great Tribulation, and will instead mistake the

Antichrist to be their Messiah. So it's extremely likely that this so-called Messiah they are meeting with is the Antichrist. And if the Antichrist is in our midst, ready to be revealed during the Tribulation, then Jesus' return is literally closer than ever. If we were to talk about just Israel alone and everything going on there prophecy related, it would be like another 15 pages on this thing.

- Great signs from heaven

I think there are several things that could fit in this category. Most prominently, celestial events! This year, there have been quite a few stunning ones, some having already occurred, others still upcoming; including 3 super moons (A "**Super Pink Moon**", a "**Super Flower Blood Moon Eclipse**", "**Super Strawberry Moon**" and a "**Ring of Fire**" solar eclipse. And yet to come, there is a "**Half-Blood Beaver Micro Moon Eclipse**" (*who names these things???*).and a **total solar eclipse**. These are probably the most major events, though scattered around them are also several smaller events surrounding different planets, and a handful of meteor showers. Of course, things like this have been happening for a while, but the point here is that these things are all happening alongside the other signs, and of course, how they match up with what Scripture says.

Here's Acts 2:19-20;

"And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
*the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,*
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day."

Sounds a lot like some of these celestial events we have coming up! The one that really sparks my interest though, is our upcoming blood moon this month. It's actually going to be an extremely rare event, being the longest lunar eclipse of the century, as it will last a little over 3 hours. The last time we have seen a lunar eclipse last so long was back in 1440-- 581 years ago! and NASA estimates the next one wouldn't be for another 648 years, in the year 2669. So I do think that is incredibly significant-- this BLOOD moon that hasn't happened in almost 600 years, occurring this year, amidst all the other insane things unfolding before our eyes.

And a brief sidenote-- in this section we could also definitely discuss "Planetary Defense" (something I didn't even know existed until fairly recently), an organization within NASA's Planetary Science Division created to literally defend Earth from asteroids and other near-Earth objects. If you take a look at them, especially in recent times, they've really been all about preparing for asteroids, and how they might either deter their course or destroy them. I find that peculiar, because in Revelation, chapters 6 and 8, we are told about meteors hitting the Earth during the Great Tribulation. I think this is important to note because today, I truly believe we are

seeing the FORESHADOWING of the events to come as described in Revelation, which could be an indicator of how close we are to the Lord's return.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2021/12/28/three-supermoons-two-blood-moons-and-a-ring-of-fire-for-north-america-a-skywgjhghghghger456uuijatchers-guide-to-2021/?sh=50122adc4def>

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/LEcat5/LE2001-2100.html>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-10168999/Planetary-defense-NASA-launch-November-mission-deflect-devastating-asteroid-hitting-Earth-NUDGING-spacecraft-agency-says.html>

There is so much I want to say, but for the sake of keeping this from being too long, and also not wanting to risk possibly having this video censored for certain untouchable topics, this is where I will leave you all. Believe me-- we barely even scratched the surface here! Were I to cover everything in depth, I think we'd have a multi-part series going on here. It's seriously insane, especially if we were to go more into Israel, and everything going on there. There is just SO much.

Again, I will be supplying some additional resources in the description below for those who want to learn more, and dig deeper, and of course am more than happy to talk with anyone in Instagram messages or email. The resources I will link go over all of the various things we discussed today, but spoken by much smarter, experienced people. So be sure to check out the links below if you want to learn more. This whole devotional is basically just a "baby's first steps" so I definitely recommend you look deeper.

NOW, as Christians, these things ought not to scare us, but should rather motivate us to seek Christ all the more, to share Him with everybody we can, and of course, excite us to see our Lord finally face to face, and live in a perfect world free of sin with Him and fellow Christians forever. Let's get serious about the Lord. Let's be intentional with our time, making sure we are setting apart time everyday for Him, in fervent reading and prayer. It's a much needed reminder we ALL need, myself included of course. This world is full of so many shiny things to get distracted by, whether good or bad, but let us not be carried away by these things-- let's fix our eyes solely on Jesus, and as the famous quote goes-- "Only one life, soon to pass, only what's done for Christ will last." And how very true that is.

As we look around this world and see the chaos that just seems to be unfolding more and more everyday, it's incredibly tragic to see so few Christians actually paying attention, but it is to be expected because our Lord said it would be so. In many cases, it's just the result of churches neglecting to talk about prophecy altogether, or perhaps lacking passion for the Lord, and being too consumed with this life instead.

So my plea with you all is to not fall into that trap, but to believe the Lord in what He says, to recognize the times we are in, and to let these things encourage you to seek Him all the more diligently and to share the Gospel with everyone you can. This world needs Jesus more than ever. We need to build our houses on the foundation of Christ, not the shaky and

ever-changing foundation of this world. This life is short, and this world is crazy. It's not our home. What is the use of investing in this life, of storing up "treasures" in this world? It's falling apart, and it's falling apart fast, and we can't take anything with us when we die.

As Jesus said; "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

My unbelieving friends-- are you really willing to throw away eternity for whatever few years you have left on this sad, sad planet? This world doesn't have what you're looking for, it's empty, it's cheap, it's hopeless. Aren't you tired of being miserable? And Even IF everything was going perfectly on this Earth, we know it still can't fill that void that's inside of everyone of us. That cheesy sentiment about there being a "God shaped hole" in every one of our hearts is TRUE, as after all, He made us, and created us to have a relationship with Him, to know Him, to worship Him. Things work best when they're actually doing what they were made for. God knows us best. He made us.

Another thing Jesus says in Matthew 6-- "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." - Matthew 6:33

When you seek Jesus first— when you place Him first, you won't regret it. You're doing exactly what you ought to be. You are literally doing what you were created for. My friends, my family, I can tell you that nothing on this planet even comes close to Jesus, and knowing Him. Nothing compares to Him. All these things we chase after in the world in some attempt to satisfy ourselves or find some lasting fulfillment, while they may give us some momentary thrill, in the end they're nothing, the high is never enough, and we're just as hungry as before.

I may be young, but I can testify to you now that this world isn't it. This world doesn't satisfy. This world can't save us. This world is empty and broken, and it's crying out to be redeemed by our precious Lord— and it will be soon! My ultimate exhortation to you is this: get your eyes off of yourself, off of your problems, off of this world and all its troubles and distractions. Fix your eyes on Jesus, and seek Him first.

It took me such a long time to realize this, and maybe that isn't saying much given I'm still young, but it felt long enough to me. For years, even after I had finally come to Christ, I still chased after this world and all of these grandiose ambitions and ideas I had for my life. I was totally centered on this world, and even the mere mention of this end times stuff would send me into panic attacks, so I chose to be ignorant. But as I came to know Jesus more-- as I really truly began intentionally seeking Him and setting aside that time everyday to spend with Him, everything began to change. My priorities, the things I saw as important and meaningful. Everything. And let me tell you-- it's LIGHT-YEARS better than anything I was doing before. Jesus trumps all those cheap thrills and momentary goals I was chasing. And even more so, He alone is the one who saves us! Just like when God spoke of how Israel often sought help from their "idols without mouths," so often do we seek help, seek comfort, seek salvation from all the random little things we obsess over, we distract ourselves with so many things, but that doesn't change the reality.

Today, I can tell you with all honesty, with full assurity, there is NOTHING better than Jesus, and there is no decision more important you will ever make in your entire life than embracing Him as your Lord and Savior, and choosing to follow Him, instead of all the things in this empty, dying world.

And to those kids out there listening, the tweens, the teens, the young adults-- I am aware that there is this common and gross misconception that Jesus is just an "old people's thing," and that's a misconception I want to break today as well. Everyone, young and old, needs Jesus. This culture has stained our idea of God, sadly, and people who follow God are often painted as "old fashioned" in the media. I hope and pray today that as you hear me read this, you will understand that this is not a grandma thing, as the media would love you to believe. I hope that as you hear these words from my infantile mouth, you will realize that this is FAR from an old person's thing. This is REAL, and I tell you that today with full assurity. Nothing is better than Jesus, and yes: He really does change lives. Jesus is calling YOU, regardless of your age or history or race or struggles or whatever baggage you may have. It doesn't matter who you are, or what you have done. All are welcome to the foot of the cross. Jesus Himself said "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Mark 2:17.

And if perhaps we still have quite a bit of time left, what does it matter? Regardless of the times we are in, the command to be watchful, to be ready, to be fixated on Jesus is still there. And seeing all of this insanity going on in the world should still wake us up to how broken and lost it is, and how our hope is found in Jesus alone.

This life is still nothing compared to eternity, and the sooner we realize that, the better. For many of us, it takes hard times and troubling circumstances to draw us to the Lord, so perhaps this is the wake up call some of us need, to either come to Jesus for the first time, or get serious about Him. God is shaking this world, trying to wake it up, beckoning all to turn to Him before it's too late. That's His incredible mercy and patience towards us, though we are rotten sinners. Though this world mocks God mercilessly, His hand of mercy is still extended to all.

"...but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please contact me either by my email or Instagram DMs, and I will GLADLY talk with you one-on-one and answer any questions you may have, and pray with you! Today is the day of salvation-- don't wait another minute!

God bless you guys, and please have a wonderful day!

- **RESOURCES (to be put in video description)**

- <https://youtu.be/IMeBGzPJK7s> "Are We Really Living in the Last Days??"
- Living Faith Calvary Chapel.

This video goes over much of what we talked about but with plenty of Bible verses to back it up and such. Very clear, easy video.

- www.hopeforourtimes.com
- <https://livingfaithcalvarychapel.com/news-updates>
- www.ccontario.com
- www.8bitmanna.weebly.com
- www.livinginprophetictimes.com