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This Age is Coming to an End, and Then a New Age Will Begin



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #63 ~

We live in an age that will soon come to an end, and then the next age, a new age, will begin. But when will this happen? That's what the apostles asked Jesus, *"What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?"* (Matthew 24:3). These Jewish disciples were finally realizing Jesus would be leaving them, but they were convinced He would come back and set up His kingdom on earth. They believed God's promises about the Messiah reigning as King over Israel, and over the world, and they wanted a sign to let them know when this would begin to happen. In last week's post we looked at Matthew 24, and discovered a number of events that will occur before the end of this age. This week I want to focus on the present age, and the age to come. Ephesians 1:21 speaks of Jesus Christ *"...not only in the present age, but also in*

the one to come."

First, let's get some perspective. Since that first sin of Adam thousands of years ago, we have been living in *"this present evil age"* (Galatians 1:4). The clear-thinking Christian can see Biblically, historically, and at the present time, that people living on this planet are exceedingly sinful. But it's not just that there are sinful people, it's that *"the whole world lies in the power of the evil one"* (1 John 5:19). There's no doubt that we live in an evil age, at a time and in a place, controlled by the devil.

But we can gladly say that God has been sovereignly ruling over the world during this entire evil age. *"Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom"* (Psalm 145:13). During this time, God has been working through both the Jews and the church, and His work has not been thwarted, and will not be thwarted. With respect to the Jews, *"The Lord nullifies the plans of the nations... the plans of the Lord stand firm forever... blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose"* (Psalm 33:10-12). With respect to the church, Jesus says, *"Upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it"* (Matthew 16:18). Yes, we live on an evil earth in an evil age, but we know that God has chosen His people, and He will keep them *"strong to the end."* 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

Many people think this church age will keep going for a long, long time. But they are mistaken, for now we live in the end times, evidenced by the fact that the Jews are, once again, living in their land. Many also believe this age is going to get better and better, and then Christ will return. This also, is not true, for the Bible says this world will be getting worse and worse, and then Christ will come back. It tells us, *"lawlessness is increased"* (Matthew 24:12); *"the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah"* (Matthew 24:37); and *"in the last days, difficult times will come."* 2 Timothy 3:1

Let's look briefly at Matthew 24, for it has lots to tell us about the end of the age:

1. Many prophesied events have been and will be fulfilled, signifying that the end of this age, Christ's coming, and the rapture is getting closer and closer. Matthew 24:3-44

2. *"Birth pain"* events are taking place, *"but the end is still to come"* (Matthew 24:6). Famines, wars, earthquakes, etc. that are occurring now do not mean the end of this age is imminent, that it can occur at any time, and that the rapture could even happen today. Many more things need to take place before this age will come to an end.

3. Christians are exhorted to persevere *"to the end"* (Matthew 24:13). Many Christians living on earth in the end-times will experience great tribulation, and will need to endure to the end, to Christ's coming, and then they will be saved, that is, be raptured.

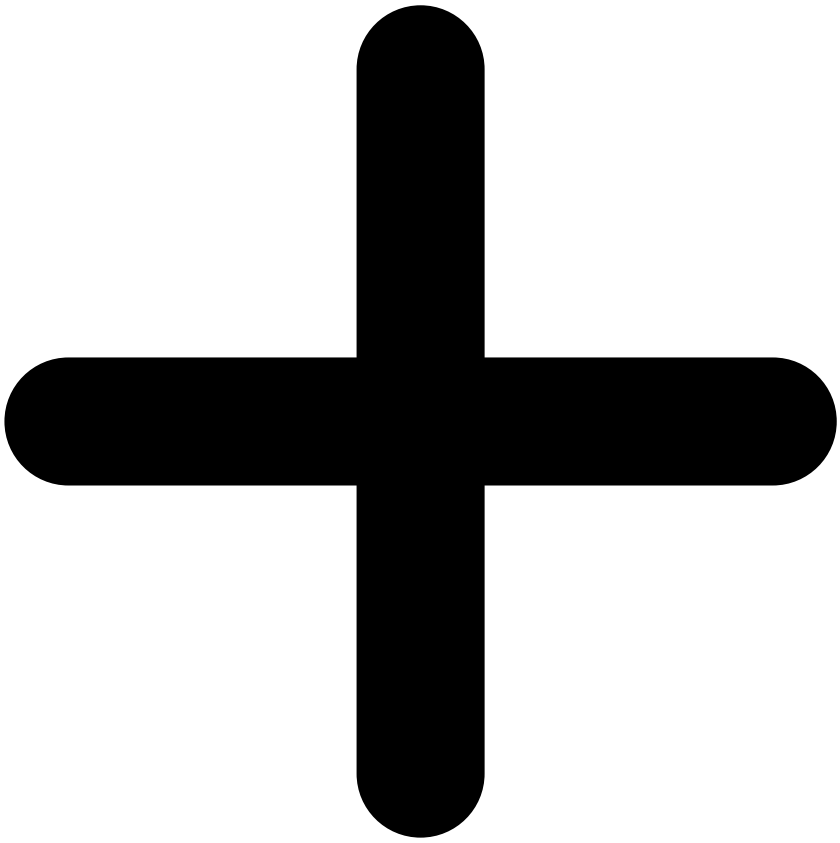
4. The gospel will be *"preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:14). A big part of serving God is to keep telling people about their need for Christ, right up to the end of this age and the rapture.

5. The specific and obvious sign that this age has come to an end is when the *"the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give it's light..."* (Matthew 24:29). All believers living on earth will know this evil age is over when they see this heavenly sign, and immediately they will be raptured, be rapidly taken from this earth to be with Jesus Christ.

What does God want you to know? What does He want you to be looking for? The end of this age, the coming of Christ, and the rapture of the church (Matthew 24:29-31). Then after the end of this age and the rapture, God will pour out His wrath on earth, a great remnant of Jews will be saved, and Christ will begin His glorious thousand-year reign. That's when the next age begins, and it will be a new and good age, a time when all believers will reign with Christ, a time when we will see the holiness, power, wisdom, love and dominion of God like never before. It will be a time when *"God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him"* (Psalm 67), and *"The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Habakkuk 2:14

I can’t say it strong enough – this present evil age is coming to an end, and soon!!! Now in these last years of this age, it’s our time to serve the Lord, to work hard for Him, to help bring about the return of Christ and the rapture of the church! *“Make disciples of all the nations… and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20

P.S. I encourage you to read The Return of the King, an article that helps us to see the big picture and how that relates to the end of this age.



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