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Truths You Need to Know About the End Times



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #73 ~

1. Every prophetic word regarding the return of Christ and the rapture of the church is true, and will be fulfilled. Jesus tells us, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away"* (Matthew 24:35). He also says, *"Take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance"* (Mark 13:23). God has told us, ahead of time, everything He wants us to know about the end-times, and that's because He wants us to be instructed, to be ready, to be telling others, and to be excited about seeing His Son, Jesus.

2. Prophetically speaking, we live in the end-times, the last part of this present age before the rapture of the church. The fact that the Jews are firmly established back in their land is the reason we know we are living in the end-times. Ezekiel 36-37; Daniel 12:4, 9

3. Many things need to take place before Christ's coming. In the years before Christ's return and the rapture, there will be birth pains (false Christs, famines, earthquakes, and wars), the decline of the United States, the realignment of countries, a rebuilt Jewish, the coming of the Antichrist, apostasy, increasing lawlessness, great tribulation, the mark of the beast, preaching the gospel to all nations, heavenly signs, etc. Matthew 24

4. Christ's coming and the rapture of the church are not imminent. That's because the Bible makes it clear that the aforementioned prophesied events and signs need to occur first. This means the rapture is not pre-tribulational, is not before Daniel's 70th week, and cannot happen at any moment or time. Matthew 24:33-36, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

5. We now live in an elongated stage called the *"beginning of birth pains."* Matthew 24:4-8 tells us about these birth pains – false Christs, wars, earthquakes and famines. Luke 21:8-11 tells us about plagues occurring in various places around the world. A parallel passage, Revelation 6:1-8, also speaks about these birth pains, but includes financial problems and death. But we are only in stage one, with stage two, the latter and harder birth pains, still to come.

6. Christians are to be watchmen (Ezekiel 3:17). We are to *"be alert and sober,"* telling others what we know about the end-times and Christ's coming (1 Thessalonians 5:6). We are to be *"those who have insight among the people"* and *"give understanding to the many"* (Daniel 11:33). We need to be discerning, looking for these prophesied signs, and recognizing them when they occur. *"When you see all these things, recognize that He is near, that He is right at the door."* Matthew 24:33

7. As time goes on, it will be evident to Christians that Christ's coming is getting closer. At this time (2018), Christ's return and the

rapture are still many years away, as many prophesied events still need to take place. Once the Antichrist is revealed (Daniel 9:27), it will be less than three years until the rapture. Hebrews 10:25 instructs you to be *"encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

8. The rapture of the church will occur after the birth pains, after the revealing of the Antichrist, after great tribulation, after the sixth seal, after the heavenly signs, after the last trumpet, before the seventh seal, and during the second half of Daniel's 70th week, on a *"day and hour no one knows."* We are to know the general time of the rapture, but we cannot know the specific time. Matthew 24:9-36, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Revelation 6-7

9. Christians alive on earth, in the years leading up to Christ's coming, will go through great tribulation. This will be a most difficult and distressing time for Christians, for there will be increasing wickedness, worldwide apostasy, betrayal by family members, food shortages and persecution. But God will give us abundant grace, empower us to be His witnesses, and use us for His purposes and glory. Matthew 24:9-14, Luke 21:12-17

10. Christians will still be living on earth when the Antichrist is revealed at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week. The Antichrist, possessed by the devil, will be the most evil and wicked man to ever live on the face of this earth. He will be worshiped by unbelievers, and be persecuting and killing Christians. But believers will be overcomers, victorious because of Jesus Christ and His word. Revelation 12:6-17, Revelation 13

11. Five major, life-changing, world-changing events will occur after the end of this age: the rapture of the church, God's wrath upon the world, the salvation of the Jews, the defeat of the devil, and Christ's return to earth to begin His 1000-year glorous reign. Revelation

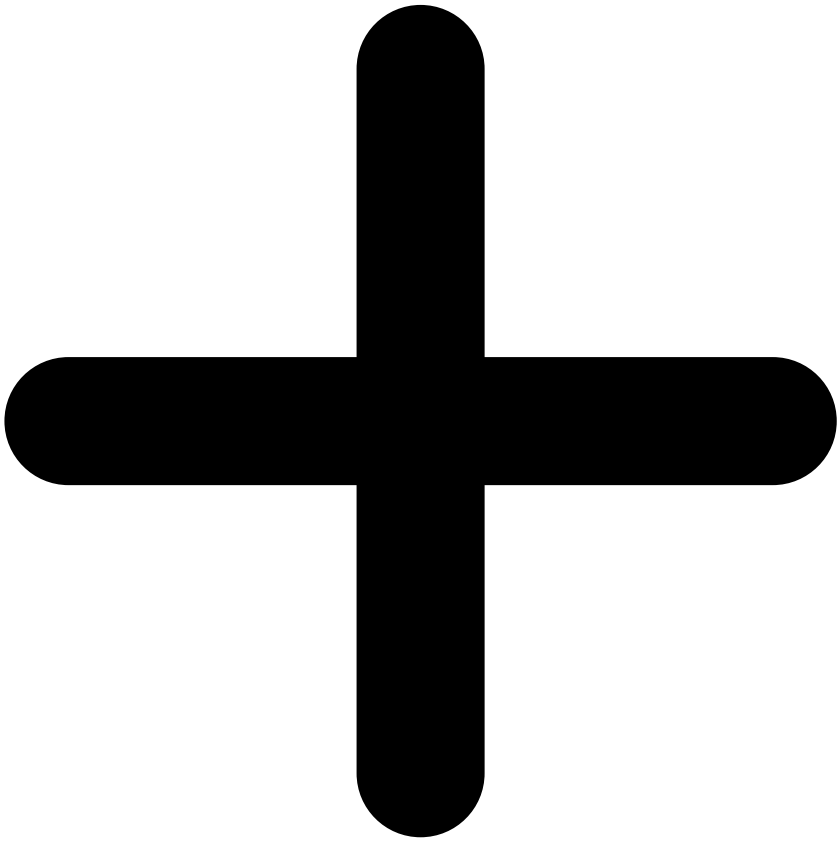
12. God is sovereign over all prophesied events. Everything is going according to His perfect plans. He is working out all the details, working through Christians, rulers and countries, bringing everything and every person, to that point in time when He will send Jesus Christ back to earth. No person, no demon, and no devil, will thwart the purposes and plans of God. Isaiah 46:8-13, Psalm 33:10-12, Ephesians 1:9-11

13. Our purpose in the end-times is to be loving our Lord (Mark 12:30), loving others (John 15:17), praying (1 Peter 4:7), serving God (1 Thessalonians 1:9), encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:25), preaching the gospel (Matthew 24:14), making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20), and looking for Jesus' soon return. Matthew 24:42

14. Our character in the end-times is to be holy (2 Peter 3:11), obedient (Revelation 2:26), wise (Revelation 13:18), loving (1 John 4:7), believing (Luke 18:8), persevering (Matthew 24:13), faithful (Matthew 25:23), patient (James 5:8), and waiting (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

In conclusion, be encouraged and excited by what God is doing in our time. *"Do this, understanding the time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light"* (Romans 13:11-12). Be thankful that you can be part of God's great and glorious work. Faithfully serve the Lord by using your gift. Tell believers what will be taking place in the years ahead. Warn unbelievers about the coming wrath, and share the gospel with them. Be hoping, praying, and looking for our Lord's soon return. *"'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20

P.S. I have just written, “Spiritual Survival Food for the Coming Tough Times,” the first of a two-part article about how we can live for God, especially during Daniel’s 70th week and the time of great tribulation. It focuses on the necessity of knowing, believing and obeying the word of God, with over 100 verses written out.



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