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What About the Unrepentant Unbeliever in the End Times?



By Steven J. Hogan

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You have seen the movies and read the books where the bad guys appear to be winning. They have locked up the good guys, taken control of the city, or hijacked the airplane, and things aren't looking good. But these are just stories. When the Antichrist appears and takes over the world, it won't be just a story, it will really happen. Truly, this will be a dark time in history, for the **devil and his people will seem to be winning.** Let me tell you what you need to know about unrepentant unbelievers in the end-times. They will be:

Unloving. Matthew 24:12 – *"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold."* In the end times, unbelievers will be increasingly lawless. They will be unloving, unholy, arrogant, **lovers of**

self, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1-4). We live in an evil age, and it's going to get a lot, lot worse in the last few years before the return of Christ. But as Christians, we will be the light of the world.

Worshiping Satan. Revelation 13:4 – *"They worshiped the dragon* (Satan), *and they worshiped the beast* (Antichrist)." Unbelievers will hear about this man *rising* from the dead; they will see this 2nd beast perform great signs; and they will be amazed, in awe, and worship this man, this 1st beast, and also **worship the devil himself**. But believers will be loving God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Mark 12:30

Taking the mark. Revelation 13:16 – *"He causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead."* Most unbelievers will take this mark of the beast, with the result that they will be able to openly buy or sell, **do business, go shopping, or go out to eat**.

Deceived and deluded. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 – "*God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness."* Sinners will hate the truth, but will love their evil and wicked ways. Therefore, God will cause them to be deceived all the more, resulting in a rapid and **dramatic increase in the depravity** of the world.

Mocking Christians. 2 Peter 3:3-6 – *"In the last days, mockers will come with their mocking, following after their lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'… But by His word, the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."* During the Antichrist's rule, unbelievers will be mocking, taunting, ridiculing, and **making fun of the Christians.**

Hating and killing. Matthew 24:9 – *"They will deliver you to tribulation and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name."* After the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week, most unbelievers will **see the Christians as a terrible menace**, a harmful blight to the world. Non-Christians will be emboldened and impassioned in their hate for Christians, so much so that they will want to kill them, to rid the earth of them. *"An hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think he is offering service to God."* John 16:2

Betraying family members. Luke 21:16 – *"You will be betrayed by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death."* Many unbelievers will turn against their own family members, those who are Christians, and turn them in to the authorities, and some of these will be killed. Without a doubt, this will be one of the saddest and **hardest things for Christians to go through** in the end-times. *"In all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."* Romans 8:37

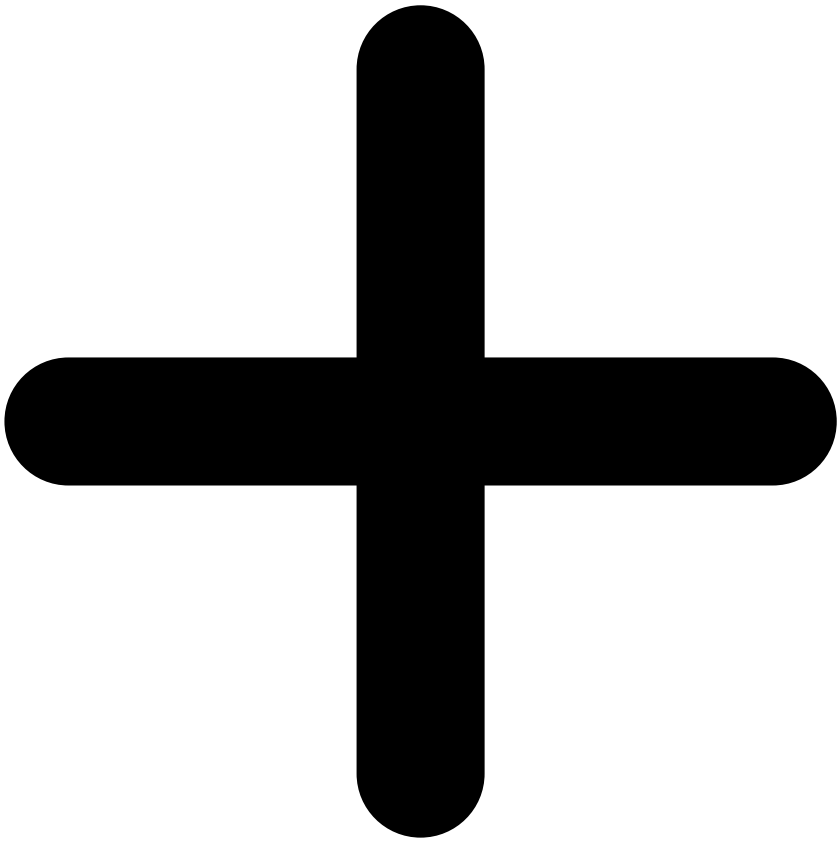
Eating and drinking. Luke 17:28 – *"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: They were eating and drinking, they were buying and selling, they were planting and building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all."* There will be **a pseudo-peace on earth** during the Antichrist's rule, and unbelievers will be happy, living like everything is just fine. But they will be so deceived, and will be shocked and scared when they see the sudden return of Christ.

Doomed. Revelation 6:12-17 – *"There was a great earthquake… the stars of the sky fell to the earth… the sky was split apart like a scroll… and the kings… and the great men… and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves… for the great day of God's wrath has come."* Great signs in the heavens and on the earth will signal the end of this age and the return of Christ. Just after the rapture, the day of the Lord will come, and unbelievers will be doomed, **eternally damned by God.**

Punished in hell. Revelation 14:9-10 – *"He will be tormented with fire and brimstone… and the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever."* Those who receive the mark of the beast will go to hell, and later be **cast into the lake of fire**, where they will be punished forever (Revelation 20:15). This will be the sad, but righteous, reality for the unrepentant, Christ-hating, Christian-hating unbeliever.

You need to know the truth about unrepentant unbelievers in the end-times, especially if you are alive during the rule of the Antichrist. These last few years before the coming of Christ will prove to be a great opportunity to serve the Lord, love your enemies, and share the gospel with them, with the result that **some unbelievers will repent of their sins, and be saved**. Don't forget, God will give you all the grace and peace you need. And remember, God is completely in charge, for He is the sovereign Ruler. *"To live is Christ and to die is gain"* (Philippians 1:21). *"Behold, I am coming soon."* Revelation 2:20

P.S. Clearly, Christians will go through some very difficult trials in the end-times, and therefore, it is essential that we understand what God's word tells us about them. A very comprehensive summary of God's purposes for our trials is given in the article, A Biblical Perspective on the Trials of Life. I'll mention one more article that is very encouraging: Keep Yourself in the Love of God.



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