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What the Bible Says About the Future



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #105 ~

For the past two years, I have been writing blog posts about the end-times and the second coming of Christ. On one hand, it's a simple subject, for Christ is coming again. On the other hand, there are a great many details about God's plans for the years leading up to Christ's return and the years following. That's because our heavenly Father wants us to be both informed and excited about His future plans for us. Today's post is a summary of many of the major themes on this most important and relevant subject.

* Jesus Christ is returning to earth. Luke 21:27, Acts 1:9-11, Hebrews 10:37
* Jesus Christ is coming back as Lord, Redeemer, Judge and King. Zechariah 12:10, 14:9
* Jesus Christ is coming back soon, for we now live in the end-times. Daniel 12:4,9; Matthew 24:4-36
* The fact that Jewish people have returned to their land and re-formed

the nation of Israel is the main reason we know we are living in the end-times. Ezekiel 36-37, Luke 21:20-24
* God's end-time work with the Jewish people coincides with, and is in conjunction with, His end-time work with the Christians. Matthew 24:9-27, Luke 21:9-24, Revelation 7
* Sin, evil, and wickedness will be plaguing the world, and increasingly so, in the years leading up to the coming of Christ. Matthew 24:12, 2 Timothy 3:1-4
* *"Birth pains"* will be occurring in various parts of the world with increasing intensity before Christ's coming. These will consist of false Christs, wars, earthquakes, plagues, famines and economic distress. Matthew 24:4-8, Luke 21:9-11, Revelation 6:1-8
* There will be a great, global apostasy, for people will be abandoning their faith and their religion before Christ's return. These defectors will turn against Christians, betraying them and turning them into the authorities. Matthew 24:10, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
* The breaking of the first six seals results in events that need to occur, and conditions that need to be in place, before the end of the age and the rapture of the church. Revelation 6-7
* Daniel's 70th week, the last of Daniel's 70 weeks, is a seven-year, divine time frame, given to us by God to help us know the sequence of key end-time events. Daniel 9:27, Revelation 12-13

* A treaty between Israel and other nations, attended by the future Antichrist, will be signed or confirmed at the beginning of Daniel's 70th week. Daniel 9:27
* The United States will decline from her position as a global super-power, and after that, at a time unknown to us, the Antichrist and his kingdom will rise up and begin to rule the world. Daniel 7:19-27; Revelation 13:3-8, 17:9-13
* At the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week, Satan will be cast down to the world, and empower an evil man, that wicked and diabolical Antichrist. Revelation 12:7-13
* The Antichrist will form a ten-nation coalition, a military power base, enabling him to rule the entire world. Daniel 7:23-27; Revelation 13:3-8,

17:9-13
* Having unbelievers receive his mark is one of the primary means by which the Antichrist (the beast) will control the economy, people, and the world. Revelation 13:16-17
* Christians living on earth during the time of the Antichrist's rule will undergo great tribulation. This tribulation is not God's wrath, but refers to the distress, difficulties and persecution believers will experience. Matthew 24:9, 21-22; Revelation 12:17, 13:5-7
* Once the gospel is preached to all the nations, this age will end, and Jesus Christ will return to rapture the Christians living on earth. Matthew 24:14, 31; Matthew 28:19-20
* Christians are to know the general time of Christ's return, but only God knows the specific time, the exact day of His return. Matthew 24:32-36, Hebrews 10:24-25
* This present age will end when heavenly signs are seen in the skies above us, and a great earthquake is felt all over the earth. Matthew 24:29, Revelation 6:12-14
* Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, will be with each Christian to the end, whether that be the end of his life, or the end of this age. John 14:16-17, Matthew 28:20

* The coming and revealing of Christ is after the coming and revealing of the Antichrist. Matthew 24:15-31, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9
* The rapture of the church is the first event to occur at Christ's coming, and will take place sometime during the second half of Daniel's 70th week. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9
* Christians will be raptured after great tribulation is cut off, but before God's wrath is poured out on the earth. Matthew 24:29-31, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, Revelation 6-8
* All believers, those already in heaven and those still living on earth, will receive brand new bodies at the time of the rapture. These bodies will be perfect, powerful, immortal, spiritual and glorious. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, Philippians 3:20-21
* A believer's salvation is completed at the rapture, at which time, he or she is glorified, and made perfect forever. Romans 8:30; Philippians 1:6, 3:20-21

* Jesus Christ is coming back to rapture the Christians because He wants to physically be with them, take them to their heavenly home, and show them His glory. 1 Thessalonians 4:17; John 14:1-3, 17:24
* A large remnant of Jewish people physically living on earth at the end of Daniel's 70th week, will spiritually be saved. Romans 11:25-26, Isaiah 45:17
* At the end of Daniel's 70th week, the kingdom of the world, which had been controlled by Satan, will become the kingdom of the Lord. 1 John 5:19, Revelation 11:15
* God's Old Testament promises to the Jews will be fulfilled, in the end-times, at Christ's coming, and during the kingdom ages. Genesis 12:1-3; Psalms 47, 67, 72, etc.
* God is continually, purposefully, powerfully and sovereignly working in people's lives, and working out events on the earth, bringing all things to that point when His Son will return, rapture the Christians, and begin His reign over the world. Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 1:9-11

* The fact that we are now living in the end-times means we are in the last years of this present age, which will be followed by the millennial kingdom age, and then the eternal kingdom age. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Ephesians 1:21, 2:7; Revelation 19-21
* During the millennial kingdom age, believers will be reigning and ruling with Jesus Christ over the entire world. Daniel 7:27; Matthew 19:28; Revelation 2:26-27, 5:10
* A major reason for Christ's return is to punish the world, which is described in detail by the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. Psalm 98:9; Revelation 8-9, 15-16
* The four major events taking place at Christ's coming are the rapture of the church, the wrath of God upon the unbelievers, the redemption of a remnant of Jewish people, and the establishment of His kingdom over the world. Revelation 7-20
* That devilish Satan, along with all the unrepentant unbelievers who have ever lived, will be cast into the lake of fire at the end of the millennial kingdom. Revelation 20:10, 15
* In the years leading up to Christ's coming, you are to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and serve Him by using your gifts,

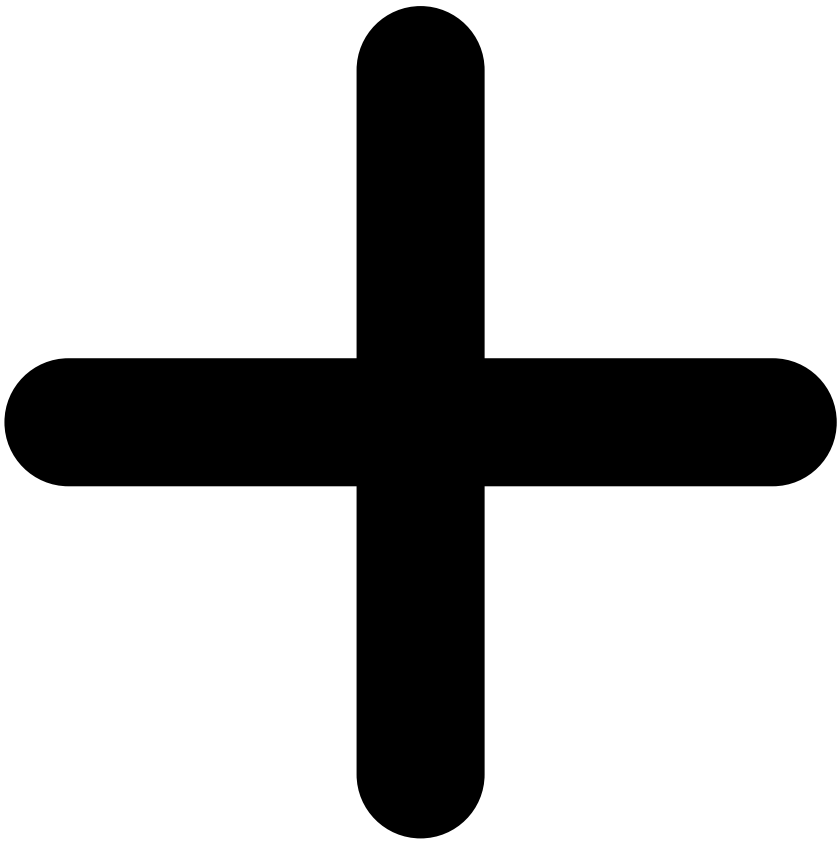
talents and money. Luke 10:27, 12:35-48, 19:11-27
* Being a faithful and fruitful Christian during the end-times requires faith, hope, love, holiness, and perseverance. Luke 18:8, 2 Peter 3:11-13, John 13:34-35, Matthew 24:13
* Your job as a Christian is to work for Christ, pray for His kingdom to come, proclaim the gospel of the kingdom, tell others about His second coming, and be waiting and looking for His return. Matthew 3:3, 6:9-10, 24:14; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
* Being in a good Bible-teaching church, and having fellowship with other believers, is essential if you are to be a godly, growing and God-glorifying Christian in these days, and in the years leading up to Christ's return. Acts 2:42, Ephesians 4:11-6, 2 Timothy 4:18, Hebrews 10:25
* Bringing glory to God is the ultimate purpose of your life, now and forever. Jude 24-25

I encourage you to go over these summary statements, read the verses and look at the links. Take the time to study the primary prophecy passages, learning all that God wants you to know about the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ (Daniel 7-12, Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Romans 11, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 2 Thessalonians 1-2, and Revelation). Then tell your family, friends and fellow church members the truth about the end-times and the return of Christ. *"Take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance"* (Mark 13:23). *"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is he who heeds the prophecy of this book"* (Revelation 22:7). *"He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful."* 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

P.S. A good article that goes along with this post is Thirty Important Truths About the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Like this one, it summarizes some of the major points about the future God has for us.

P.S. I will not be writing blog posts for the next two weeks, but will be sharing a few thoughts on my perspective about the end-times and the

coming of Christ.



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