**‘End-Times Living’**

1Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

3Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

4And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. 5For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. 6And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. *(Matthew 24:1-8)*

What exactly does it mean when someone says ‘We are living in the last days’? Does it mean that the earth is going to be destroyed and time is going to come to an end? The answers we need are found in the Bible.

In the quote above from Matthew 24, Jesus begins to tell his disciples what some of the signs would be BEFORE he would return to earth. The disciples understood that the earth would not simply disintegrate before Jesus’ return BUT that the “AGE” or “TIME PERIOD” they were familiar with would come to a close. The present-day acronym ‘T.E.O.T.W.A.W.K.I.’ (which stands for *‘The End of the World as We Know It’*) is used by many to describe the time we’ve entered. If we haven’t yet realized what Jesus told his first disciples is happening all around us, let me name **some** (certainly not all) of the things which point to this reality.

* 1. Famine is being set up all around the world. American farmers weren’t able to plant 19.4 million acres of cropland in 2019. The flooding in America’s heartland had a terrible affect on livestock.
	2. Fires devastated vast acres in America’s western states and then Australia’s fires were nothing short of historic and horrific.
	3. Earthquakes are increasing in size and frequency throughout the earth. One earthquake in Turkey even resulted in a blood-like liquid flowing out of the cracks which opened up on the earth’s surface because of the quake. See the amazing videos in the following link. <https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/144876/deadly-earthquake-in-turkey-turns-rivers-blood-red/>
	4. Volcanoes are erupting or are getting ready to erupt all over the earth.
	5. Storms (dust storms, wind storms, hail storms, snow storms, and rain storms) of unusual size and intensity are striking the nations.
	6. There have been record heat AND cold experienced throughout the world. Snow has fallen in amounts such as most people have never seen.
	7. Now there are hundreds of billions of locusts decimating crops and anything green in countries in East Africa, Yemen, Oman, Pakistan, and India. From India, they can easily cross into China and inflict more havoc there.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2020/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) Check out one of many links covering this devastating event. <https://www.businessinsider.com/desert-locust-plague-devastates-africa-photos-history-2020-2#but-todays-desert-locusts-are-just-as-havoc-wreaking-according-to-dominique-burgeon-an-emergency-services-director-at-the-un-food-and-agriculture-organization-the-current-outbreak-in-africa-is-an-unprecedented-situation-8>
	8. And surely we are all aware of the novel Corona virus (a.k.a. Wuhan virus) which is spreading throughout the world and is likely killing far more people than is being reported.

Jesus was just beginning to tell his disciples of what would come before his return when he told them in verse 6, ‘See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.’

We might all be thinking, ‘That’s easy for him to say.’ However, the reason why Jesus tells us in advance of the things which are to come, is so we will be able to be calm in the midst of the storms. Let’s understand that as believers in Jesus, we have a distinct advantage over those who do not know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

* 1. We know who the true God and Creator is.
	2. We know that He is love.
	3. We know that through His own Son, He has made a way for all people to come to a knowledge of Him and be saved.

Since we know these things and because God’s Spirit dwells within us, we CAN BE at peace and we CAN BE who God calls us to be in the earth. What exactly did Jesus say regarding his followers? Let me highlight the message we have recorded in Matthew 5. Seeing a multitude of people, Jesus went up on a mountain and among other things spoke these words,

13“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. *(Matthew 5:13-16)*

Letting our light shine before others is what we need to do at all times without exception. But as the end-time troubles increase in the earth *(Jesus called them birth pangs)* we need to be especially ready to “shine” as bright lights in the world.

We need to know and the world needs to know that ‘T.E.O.T.W.A.W.K.I.’ isn’t in the future. It is NOW! The world also needs to know that though everything in the world is shaking, quaking, and falling apart, God’s Kingdom cannot be shaken. It cannot be moved. It will endure forever.

God invites everyone to come into His Kingdom and share in all of the blessings His has to offer. Acceptance of God’s invitation is through the ONE WAY God provided for the world to come to Him. That ONE WAY is through God’s own Son Jesus. He IS the Savior of the world. He is the BRIDGE between us and His Father. He became the BRIDGE when he willingly went to suffer what we deserved to suffer because of our sin and rebellion against God. He took our sin upon himself and he gave us his sinlessness (righteousness). This is the most precious gift God has made available to all people. It is a priceless treasure. It costs us nothing to receive it. It is FREE! Nevertheless, because God will not force His good gifts upon us, we must stretch out our hand and heart to receive it. How do we do this? We what God’s Word tells us. We believe that Jesus’ death was for us.

Since we know that God holds the future in His hands, let’s not be afraid of the troubles which will come upon the earth. Rather, let’s help those who are afraid by introducing them the Jesus. His peace is the peace which surpasses all human understanding. He is able to keep everyone in perfect peace no matter what is going on in the earth.

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[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2020/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/common/ecg/75/en/DL496pg1mapE.jpg>