

End Times – and Our Spiritual Life

Even though we live in this world, our time here is to revolve around a relationship with God. Our spiritual life is more important than worldly things.

I remember years ago being shocked when I heard about people during the depression killing themselves because they lost all their money. Yeshua put things into proper perspective when He said, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works;" Matthew 16:26-27 NKJV.

Years ago, someone who was extremely well to do had an odd message for me when I went to pick up a chair for my aunt. While I was standing in her elegant foyer with a 6' wide staircase and enormous beautiful paintings along the wall of the staircase, she said to me that all that she had was worthless. You can have all the riches in the world, but they won't give you life when your time is up. Like the saying goes, "You can't take it with you."

A person could spend a billion dollars trying to stay alive, but they will still die someday. Yeshua said that God will reward those who did what was right and followed God's commandments in Matthew 16:27. Good works in Jewish thought is to follow God's commandments because they teach us to do what is right and good. If we do good works, God will reward us. The other option is to do evil works. I don't think we want the reward for doing those. Doing what is right and good is something that we can take with us.

Yochanan (John) also puts things into perspective when he said, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world —the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever;" 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV.

We are to do God's will and love God first and foremost and do things His way. Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." We are to put God first because doing what is right brings more satisfaction and peace in our lives than all the money in the world could bring. It brings good into the world. We love God by keeping His commandments, "Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always;" Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV.

This life is temporary, but the future life with a good God is eternal. Will we only focus on this temporary life and what we can get out of it or will we also value doing things God's way and receive a reward from Him? Shaul (Paul) said, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal;" 1 Corinthians 4:17-18 NKJV.

Kefa (Peter) says there will be hecklers and mockers (scoffers) who do what they want, and don't believe in God and doing what is right.

2 Peter 3:3-7 NKJV:

"Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, " Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the

word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

It says that someday, things **will not** go on like they are now. There will be a time of judgment. This time of judgment begins to take place at the end times when Yeshua (Jesus) returns. The Bible talks about the second coming of Yeshua (Jesus) and a gathering together of believers in 2 Thessalonians. First, Shaul warns the believers in God not to listen to anyone who says that Yeshua has already come back.

Then, Shaul says that there must come a falling away from the truths of the scriptures. We know that there was a huge falling away that took place when Constantine and the Roman Empire made up their own religious system. They changed the original system set in place by the Jewish Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ).

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 NKJV says,

"Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first."

We are not to be shaken up; we will know when the Messiah Yeshua returns and it wasn't Constantine. The Romans made up their Roman and Greek religious system and rejected anything Jewish. Our entire Bible was written by Jews. The Messiah Yeshua was Jewish, so what makes people think that their Gentile belief system is correct? Constantine, the emperor of the Roman/Greek empire, was a pagan and he made up a belief system that included pagan practice and idol worship. As leader of the sun god cult, he believed he was God and the second coming of the Messiah.

Shaul (Paul) said that idolaters will not be allowed in the kingdom of God. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived.** Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God;" 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV.

People think that the believers in the Messiah stopped being persecuted at the time of Constantine, but nothing could be further from the truth. Only Constantine's brand of Roman/Greek religious practice was allowed to be practiced during his time and the true believers were persecuted, killed, and their books were burned. They must have thought the Messiah would return soon.

The Romans even made up an anti-Jewish Greek text. It replaced the true text that was put together around 150 AD. The Itala text put together around 150 AD was the true text and included the Hebrew gospels of the Bible. The Roman Empire had to get rid of the original text and the true believers in order to create their false religious system. They couldn't have the original believers around if they were to falsely claim they were the true believers. It is mostly messianic believers and some protestants that know this information. Some though ignore the mistruths that have been passed down to us.

Throughout history, we have had people like Constantine who thought they were God. People at those times must have thought that Yeshua was going to come back. For example, people thought Hitler and Stalin were those evil people who would come before the end of times. I'm sure the black plague was thought to be a sign of the end times. The Pope says He takes the place of God on earth and is infallible,

so some people see him as this person who believes He is God and will bring terrible sin on the earth. They haven't repented of their idolatry; Shaul (Paul) said that no idol worshippers will be in the new kingdom. They should take note.

Some denominations prey on people's fear by saying things like there are more earthquakes and signs now so the end time is near. There are more earthquakes recorded because we have more monitoring equipment now. The monitoring equipment was put in place to detect those who were testing nuclear bombs. The Bible says we are not to act like the worldly do. "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. Isaiah 8:12-13 NKJV. We are not supposed to have the same fears that the world has, but instead fear God.

It doesn't seem many people fear God with the awe and deep respect we are supposed to have. In my paper on the end times, I show that there will be several very testing times and at the end of each of these times; people do not repent and they do not begin doing what is right. They do not fear God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV says,

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

Shaul says that there will be a falling away someday from the true God and a damnable destructive person (son of perdition) will act as though they are God; they will oppose God and His ways and God's truths so that they act as God. Most people believe that this person will actually go to the Temple in Jerusalem and act as though they are God. Verse 6 says that this person will be revealed some day. It says, "He may be revealed in his own time;" 2 Thessalonians 2:6 NKJV.

There has been some speculation on what is stopping this from occurring. Some say it is the work of the Holy Spirit, but as we read in Revelation, it is God who is in control. Shaul says that this will occur in its own time. So, as we see many things happening in the book of Revelation, the response to these things by mankind was nothing; people did not repent and believe in God and follow His commandments. The important thing we should take from this is to be faithful because there will be evil and terrible things going on until the actual end times.

It appears that the Temple in Jerusalem will have to be rebuilt in order for the end time to occur and the Jews have a plan to do that. They already have the materials ready to construct the Temple in Jerusalem. Just last year, Israel entered into negotiations with Arab countries; perhaps that included the building of a Temple. Most people think that once the agreement is reached to build the Temple, the end of time will come 7 years later. For the first 3 ½ years after the agreement, everything will go okay, but then things will fall apart and the damnable destructive person will then assume their position at the Temple in Jerusalem.

What does Yeshua say about this time in history in Matthew 24:4-14 NKJV:

"And Jesus answered and said to them:" Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And 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. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they

will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Yeshua tells us:

- ***We are not to be alarmed;** the same thing Shaul said.
- *Don't be deceived.
- *Don't believe in a different Messiah (for example, Constantine or Hitler). People betrayed each other at each of these times. My Jewish friend's grandmother went to France to escape Hitler and the person helping her turned her in. This poor lady who had to leave everything behind was accused of being wealthy and was killed at a concentration camp.
- *There will be many kinds of troubles, but the end isn't yet.
- *You will have to die for your faith in the true God.
- *People will be offended by God's teachings.
- *There will be people who deceive many (false prophets) with their words. Perhaps they will say the Bible is an old book and doesn't need to be followed anymore. Tell that to the people who died from the COVID-19 virus. It started from people eating bats which God says not to eat. There's the pig flu (we are not supposed to eat pig) and Ebola which came from eating monkeys which God says not to eat. Millions have died because people do not listen to God. Man brings evil on himself. **It is not** God that is doing it. God told us not to eat those things.
- *There will be many who don't follow God and many people will stop loving others.
- *You must endure to the end.
- *The Messianic message (gospel) will be known in all the world as a witness (against them).
- *The end will come.

Why is it a witness against them? It is because God gave us laws to live by since the garden. We see Cain and Abel making sacrifices of thanks so they had law; and the book of Jubilees said that Noah taught the law and even lists some of God's commandments that he taught. God gave us the law at Mt. Sinai. God came in the form of a man to teach us how to live right. What he taught us has been rejected by mankind. God gave us the help of the Holy Spirit to help us follow God's law and the Holy Spirit has also been rejected by mankind. In place of what God gave us is the message that we can do whatever we want (lawlessness). Some say we are just to love one another. They then practice their own ideas of what that means instead of keeping God's laws and commands.

Yeshua was tempted by the devil. Satan said that the kingdoms of the world were his and he could give them to Yeshua. Adam had transferred the authority of this world to the devil in the garden. That's why there is so much pain and sin in the world.

Luke 4:5-8 NKJV:

"Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Shaul called the devil the god of this age. "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of

the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them;" 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV. The message (gospel) of the Messiah (Christ) is hid to those who don't believe. It says that the light of the message has been hid by the god of this age so that people don't see and understand the light of the glory of the Messiah, God's message. The god of this age is Satan and the devil and the world was delivered to him until the end time; and the devil is at work blinding the minds of people so they won't believe. That is why Yochanan (John) said don't love the world and the things of the world; the god of this world is pushing the buttons behind the scene to deceive people.

We care about everyone and so does God. He doesn't want anyone to go to the lake of fire for eternity, but some people will not believe in the true God and His commandments. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance;" 2 Peter 3:9 NKJV. Make sure you keep God's commandments and don't be discouraged by the unbelief in the world. "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire;" Revelation 20:15 NKJV.

What is this light that Shaul is talking about in? He talks about it more in Ephesians 5:7-14 NKJV:

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.'"

He says that we were once without understanding about the truth from God. We are now to be people of understanding (light) about the things of God and learn God's commandments (what is acceptable to do). We are not to partake of the worthless works of those who live without understanding (darkness). We are to learn and do the truths from God and identify sinful things. The works of those who live without God's commandments are shameful and it is shameful to even speak of those things. God's commandments give us understanding (light) and His understanding and commandments show us the way to live. Stop sleeping spiritually; stop doing worthless works of darkness (dead worthless sinful works); the Messiah came to help us understand how to keep God's commandments. Our God has given us great light.

People don't understand what Shaul is talking about because they weren't raised to understand how to live right. The god of this age has hid the message of truth and goodness from them. So, this world will continue to live on with sinful disgusting acts. They won't like our message because they want to do what they want to do and not be subject to anything, but themselves. They do not want to be God's subjects. He is our King because we make Him our God and our King.

The god of this age has hidden the sinfulness of this world from the minds of the world and made mankind think that we are god of our lives. It should be no surprise that someone will install a fake version of reality and think they are God. They will then make others follow their fake reality. Like Constantine, they will try to install their false belief system and persecute believers who actually follow God's commandments, believe in God, and do what is right. This false system will probably not care about those who succumb to false religions and false ungodly values. Although in China, anyone not putting the ideology of their government first is persecuted. Some think no one will be safe.

God will repay them someday for their wickedness. It sounds like Shaul (Paul) is saying they will be heading to the lake of fire for eternity.

1 Thessalonians 6:9 NKJV:

"Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

We are not to put worldly things over God. Life is temporary, but life with God will be eternal. Those who don't put their values in the right place will be judged for their hurtful behaviors. Sin produces pain, hurt, and destruction. God gave us a good and right way to live. Yeshua will return at the end of time. He is the Messiah and don't believe in anyone else. There will be evil people like Constantine and Hitler, and also other very sad and troubling things will happen before the end times.

We are not to act like others act who only value worldly things. **Those who live a life of sin will not be part of God's new kingdom.** We are supposed to endure for our entire lives (and even die for our faith). The worldly will not understand us and even hate us Yeshua (Jesus) said. The worldly have brought suffering and pain on this world. The Bible says that the god of this world, Satan and his devil spirits, have been opposing God and blinding people from God's goodness. God doesn't want anyone to go to the lake of fire, but a person can choose their own ways instead of God's ways. Believers are to live as people of understanding (light) who do what is right and good. We are to get our understanding about life from the true God.