

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Jerry Schnelle Pete Rowland

Jon Barry

Prayers

Clay Morris Bill Brittenham

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Song Leader

Lord's Supper

Prayers

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements

Song Leader

Prayers

Invitation

Rev 22:12-14 *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.*

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.

Worship10:15 A.M.

Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



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Issue 26

End Times

Bill Brittenham

With the way things have been going in 2020 so far, I have seen several posts on social media and other places that speculate that all of this is a sign of "The End Times". By this I mean the end of the world and the final judgment. Many people with only a casual or second hand knowledge of the Bible compare the current virus plague and the worldly social upheaval with Old Testament and Revelation prophecies. They then conclude that everything must be pointing to the imminent judgment of God. Let's take a few minutes to look more closely and see what the Bible really says.

1. End Times. Most people use this phrase to refer to a period shortly before Jesus returns. But they are divided as to what "Jesus' return" actually means. Some think He will return to claim the righteous and take them to heaven in what is commonly referred to as "The

Rapture". Others think He will return to establish an earthly kingdom and sit on David's physical throne in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years. And others say He will return for the resurrection of all souls and then begin the final judgment. We don't have nearly the room in this article to explore each of these possibilities (along with several others). Simply said, nowhere in the scriptures is the idea of a Rapture of the righteous found. The misconception comes from misinterpreting both OT and NT passages. Also, there is no mention of Jesus ever establishing an earthly kingdom. (Interestingly, this is the same mistake made by the Jews in Jesus' day and even the apostles.) (See Acts 1:6) People still do not grasp that Jesus came to establish a spiritual kingdom and not a physical one. They also fail to understand that the physical is only temporary, but the spiritual is eternal.

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Please remember **Maxine Burnham** and **Jean Cronce** in your prayers.

Donna Mobley is having tests in regards to health issues. Please pray for her.

Here is the current schedule of services:

Bible Study: 9:30 AM
Services: 10:15 AM
Kids Only: 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Additionally, we are having studies on the life of Paul:

Monday: 7:00 PM
Friday: 7:00 PM

Ladies Bible Class:

Next class will be July 14th.

The only possible correct meaning of “End Times” might be Jesus’ return at the resurrection of all souls. (However, the scriptures never use this phrase to describe that event.) The use of “End Times” is really a human invention to describe a period shortly before Jesus’ appearance. And it is based on totally false doctrines. The Bible does use the term “Last Days”. However, as 1 Pet. 1:20 and Acts 2:17 show, this is not talking about some future time, but the last “age” or “testament”; that is, the Christian age which began with Jesus and His church

and will end when Jesus returns for the resurrection of all souls.

2. Are the events of 2020 different?

In some ways, yes. Covid-19 seems to be a new virus and the global outpouring of social unrest also seems different. But does this mean the end is near? Consider a few historical events.

a. One of the songs we sing is “*Jesus Is Coming Soon*”. It was written in 1942. Read the words of the song closely. As the title suggests, it is a song written about the pending coming of Jesus because of the events of that time, World War 2. Many people thought that this world war was the beginning of the end.

b. 1918. During this period there were two world events that convinced many that the world would soon end; World War 1 and the Spanish Flu pandemic.

c. 1962. I lived during the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis and there were many who thought that Bible prophecies pointing to the end were being fulfilled by world events. It seemed that Russia and the United States would begin a global nuclear war that would end the world in fire. (See 2 Pet. 3:13)

d. Although historical information is scarce for earlier crises, I believe we can correctly conclude that every crisis since Jesus ascended back to heaven has been seen by some as a sign of his immediate return.

3. **What is happening?** What can we as Christians conclude from things thus far in 2020?

a. Sin is real and all around us. From the time Adam and Eve listened to Satan

instead of God, death has been in the world. (Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-6) Sickness and death have been with man from that day. And Rom. 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory. Between those two passages, all the evil and wickedness and sickness and death in 2020 is explained.

b. From both The OT and Revelation, God clearly shows that He has used plagues, pestilence and other natural events in an attempt to convince men to repent of sin. All of the plagues God sent on the Egyptians in Exodus were specifically for that purpose. (See Ex. 7:5 and 14:18) And without debating the specific times of Revelation, we see God was to send plagues so that men would repent. (Rev. 2:21; 9:20-21; 16:9-11) Today we cannot say definitely that what is happening in our time are events sent by God to persuade men to repent. (This is because we do not have a revelation from God telling us if there is a special meaning to what is happening.) However, considering what He has revealed in His Bible, all men should see the sin and sickness, examine their lives and insure they are ready to stand before Him at the final judgment.

4. What do we do?

a. In Matthew 25, Jesus concludes the parable of the wise and foolish virgins with this statement. **Matt. 25:13** “*Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.*” We, as children of God, need to always be ready for our Savior’s return. Will He return soon? No man knows for sure. But we know with absolute certainty that He will return. We must be ready

when He does.

b. We must be the lights in this dark, sinful and wicked world. Can we use current events to warn people that they are lost in sin? Certainly. But we must be careful not to go beyond what God has revealed and make assumptions or statements not supported by the Bible. Sin separates us all from God. The blood of Jesus is the only means of covering those sins and returning to His favor. The gospel truly is for all.

c. Phil. 4:4-8 is always of help to us, but perhaps especially during times of great trouble.

d. Always be faithful! Although writing to different people in a different time and under different circumstances, Jesus reveals to the apostle John an admonition applicable to us today: **Rev 2:10-11** “*Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.*”

Troublesome times are here – AGAIN! Do not be discouraged. Do not fear. Always trust in our faithful God. He does care for His children. And even if things get worse, remember: “**This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.**”
See you on the other side!