

## **The Great Reset – Part 2**

*The Change That is Coming and What to Do*

Matthew 24:32-35; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 3-28-21

**God wants us to think about the end of all things.**

**Jesus' ride on Palm Sunday and His ride on Return Someday is very different.** We can picture the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ in terms of two important 'rides.'

- The First Coming: Coming to Serve/Save – Matthew 21:5
- The Second Coming: Coming to Make War/Judge – Revelation 19:11

**The history of the world between Christ's first and second comings is pictured as giving birth.**

- **'Birth Pangs'**/Early Labor = Recurring, 'normal' trials and circumstances of the 'Last Days' (time between the first and second coming of Christ) – Matthew 24:4-8; Mark 13:5-9; Luke 21:7-9; Luke 21:12-15
- **'Fig Leaves'**/Active -Transition Labor = intensification (like transition in birth) of trials and warnings of Judgement to come – Matthew 24:21-22; Mark 13:19
- **'Day of the Lord'**/Giving Birth = the return of Christ and the Judgment of God and the appearance of the kingdom of heaven on earth – Isaiah 13:6; Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15; Joel 2:30-32; Amos 5:18; Zephaniah 1:18; Malachi 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10

**Look for the 'fig leaves.'** – Matthew 24:32-33; Luke 21:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5; Daniel 12:10

- **Great Tribulation** (Matthew 24:21-22; Mark 13:19; Revelation 20:1-10; Revelation 7:13-17; Matthew 24:29-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12) This is the time of 'transition' from 'early labor' to 'giving birth' and therefore, from 'birth pangs' to 'the Day of the Lord.' Some see Christ returning to a world conquered by the gospel, with no major resistance. This does not seem to do justice to all that Scripture says.
- **Increase of Lawlessness** (Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 7-8; 1 John 3:4; Genesis 6:5) 'Lawlessness' is not being without any law, but being opposed to the law of God and therefore, the increase in lawlessness is the increase in sin against God and others. God's restraint on human evil will be lifted.
- **False Christ** (Matthew 24:5, 23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Daniel 7:23-26; 1 John 2:18; Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11) Before Christ returns, the Anti-Christ will be revealed. In the Scriptures, the 'Anti-Christ' is a 'spirit' that is active in the world since the first coming of Christ and also a 'person' who will arise right before the second coming of Christ. It is hard to believe that this could happen, but the mankind that rejects the true God is still made to worship and will, therefore, find a man to worship instead.

- **Signs and Wonders** (Matthew 24:23-28; Mark 13:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Revelation 13:11-15) Supernatural things will take place in order to deceive people to turn from Christ and to follow the Anti-Christ. God will allow this because people do not want to know the truth.
- **Profound Deception** (Matthew 24:3-5, 23-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; 2 Timothy 3:13) One of the reoccurring themes in our Lord's discussion of what will happen at the end is the threat and reality of profound deception taking place. We might even call it 'jaw-dropping deception' that would be hard to believe!
- **Great Apostasy** (Matthew 24:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:11-12) Through false teachers and misleading signs and wonders and through coercion, people will turn away from the true God and Christ and will worship the Anti-Christ.
- **One World Government** (Revelation 13:7-8; 17:12-13; Daniel 7:23-27; Revelation 20:1-10) A coalition of nations governing the world will give rise to the Anti-Christ and his one world government.
- **Normal Life** (Matthew 24:38-39; Luke 17:22-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3) Yet, in the midst of all this, life for many will be quite normal, just as it was before the world-wide flood in the Old Testament. At least, as 'normal' as life can be under a global totalitarian state!
- **Increased Knowledge** (Daniel 12:1-4; Revelation 13:15-18) Technology will be so advanced that incredible achievements will be made and incredible control will be exercised over the world population.
- **Great Persecution** (Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:11-13; Luke 21:16-19; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10; Daniel 7:21-22; 12:1; Revelation 2:10; 6:11; 20:7-10) But, for believers in Jesus, it will not be a normal time per se, but a time of great global persecution. During this time, the number of Christian martyrs will be completed.
- **Great Commission Completed** (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10; Revelation 20:1-3) Yet, the global persecution, as often happens, will not prevent the spread of the gospel but will encourage it and during this time the gospel will reach all the nations and people groups that need to be reached before Christ returns.
- **Salvation of the Jews** (Romans 11:25-32; Daniel 12:1-4; Hosea 3:5) One of the people groups that will be greatly impacted by the gospel during this time will be the Jewish people who will turn to Christ in great numbers.
- **Great Catastrophes** (Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:10-11, 25-28) God's response to the rampant evil in the world and the great persecution of His people during this time will be the sending of great catastrophes as a temporal judgment on sinners and a warning to the world of the final judgment to come. This could be what is reflected in the Seven Trumpet judgments in Revelation 8-10.

**Be a faithful servant.** – Matthew 24:45-46; Psalm 2:12

How do you get ready for the Return of the King?

- You surrender to the King and put all your trust in Him.
- You serve the King and live to do His will.

When Jesus returns, will He be your Savior or your Judge? Will He find you faithful?