

“It’s Hard to Understand the End Times”

Things That Are Hard to Do #8

Matthew 24:3-14

June 23, 2019

Scripture Reading: Matthew 24:3-14

Introduction

Word cloud: eschatology, dispensational premillennialism, historic premillennialism, postmillennial theonomy, amillennial inaugurated eschatology, parousia, pre/post/mid-tribulation rapture, apocalyptic literature, antichrist, partial/full preterist, abomination of desolation, armageddon, typology, replacement theology, Zionism.

Two Reactions:

- 1) fascination that leads to obsession
- 2) confusion that leads to avoidance

Why End Times Theology is Important

1. Jesus said so, it’s in the Bible
2. All Christian theology is “eschatological”
3. Theology always has real-world implications

Big Idea: the story of human history has a goal: Jesus restoring all things to himself.

Five points that we should all be able to agree upon

1) We must think carefully | Matthew 24:3-4a

2) We are in the end times | Matthew 24:4-8

- The “end times” is a long process | labor & delivery analogy
- Hebrews 1 ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

3) We need to develop grit | Matthew 24:9-13

4) We should balance hope and caution | Matthew 24:10-14

- Millennium
 - Pre-millennial – more pessimism
 - Post-millennial – more optimism
 - Amillennial – more correct symbolic
 - Pan-millennial – it will all pan out in the end (don’t punt!)

- 5) we must remember the end of the story | Matthew 24:14
- We are headed for the kingdom | Hebrews 12:25-29

Practical Application

1. Remember the big picture of the story we're living in
2. Trust Jesus when it seems like the world is falling apart
3. Learn some fancy theological terms

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.