

Group Study #1 JUDGEMENT

Read: Matthew 24, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 1 John 2:15-18, Revelation 11:1-2, Numbers 19.

The Signs Leading to the End Times- Jesus teaches us to watch for false messiahs, wars, nation rising against nation, famines, earthquakes, warfare, plagues, natural disasters, increase in wickedness. Jesus warns that all of these things are just the beginning of birth pains. The end is still to come.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NASB) But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; avoid such people as these.

Weird! It sounds a lot like people in our day. What about the antichrist? Who is the antichrist? Remember when the antichrist was Russia's Mikhail Gorbachev? Now, it's Putin. Just yesterday, I heard a predominant social leader say that Elon Musk is the antichrist! (Remember our Hermeneutical Rules- *Be careful assigning specific people, events and dates to prophecies & apocalyptic literature.*). There will come a day when the antichrist appears. Let's not get into the guessing game and end up hurting our testimony of Jesus.

1 John 2:18 (NASB) Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

One of the greatest signs of the end times took place on May 14, 1948 establishing the first Jewish state in 2,000 years. No one imagined it would ever happen. The Bible had largely been interpreted spiritually by thinking of the Jewish people and the Holy Land of Israel as simply figurative or symbolic. Once it became the State of Israel, the Bible once again was interpreted as physical Israel and the prophecies were to be interpreted literally. All that took place only 75 years ago!

What do we teach our kids about the return of Christ and the signs of the times? I want my kids to know that Jesus is returning, and it's a great thing! I want them to know that choosing Jesus means we may have to suffer in the same ways as He did and as His followers did in the Bible. I want them to watch, be alert, be sober, and keep their eye on what is happening in Israel. I don't want them to be afraid. I want them to get excited that they may actually see the very things we read in the Bible. God may choose them to live during the greatest time on earth.

Matthew 24:42 (NASB) Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

Keep Your Eyes on Israel! How would you react if the Jews started building a Temple and then started the sacrificial system again? I believe this will happen, and it may happen

sooner rather than later. When the Jews start building the Temple, Christians and pastors will most likely respond in two negative ways:

1. They will totally be against it and say, "Jesus is our once and for all sacrifice. We don't need to sacrifice. The Jews are sacrificing to Satan. It is demonic."
2. Christians will be glad the Jews are building a Temple so that the antichrist can deceive them. They want to see the prophecy of the Abomination of Desolation fulfilled.

What if there is a better way to respond to the building of the Temple and sacrifices being offered? Let's look at Revelation 11 to read about the final Temple.

Revelation 11:1-2 (NASB) Then there was given to me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² Leave out the courtyard which is outside the temple and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations; and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months."

Here's how we should interpret the times and the Temple based on the Bible:

1. It's the Temple of God and not Satan's. *"Get up and measure the temple of God..."*
2. In God's Temple, there is an altar. The altar is where the sacrifices are offered. Sacrifices are being made at God's future Temple. *"Get up and measure...the altar."*
3. There are people at God's Temple who are worshiping there, and God is receiving their sacrifices as an act of worship. The people are worshiping God and not Satan. Only Jews can go in the Temple. Gentiles or the nations will not be allowed to make sacrifices or even enter the Temple area. The Temple is only for the people of Israel. *"Get up and measure...those who worship in it."*

Conclusion: In the future, there will be a Temple in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount. This will be God's Temple. The Jews will be offering sacrifices upon the altar, and God will receive their offering as an act of worship. If God is for it, then we should be for it. We should love our Jewish brothers and sisters, and we should point them to the Messiah, Yeshua.

The Red Heifers from Texas are most likely a sign of the End Times. The Temple Institute in Israel is responsible for building the Temple in Jerusalem. In order to build the Temple, they must have the Biblical ceremony of the Red Heifer. Throughout history, there has only been 9 Red Heifer ceremonies (Numbers 19). Many Jews believe the 10th Red Heifer will usher in the Messiah. It's a big deal! Another group in Israel, called Boneh Israel, partnered with the Temple Institute to search for the Red Heifer in Texas (*because everything is bigger and better in Texas- Ha-Ha. It's true!*). This group identified 9 perfectly

Kosher Red Heifers, and they sent 5 of them to Israel in 2022. Their goal is to have the Red Heifer ceremony on the Mount of Olives in 2024. When this ceremony takes place, they will take the ashes of the Red Heifer to cleanse everything that goes into the Temple and all the priests who serve in the Temple. The ashes of the Red Heifer are needed to build the Temple. The Red Heifer and Temple are all signs that we should watch for to anticipate the return of Jesus.

Questions:

1. What are some of the signs of the end times that you have noticed so far?
2. What is important for your kids to know about the end times?
3. How would you react if the Temple is built in Israel?
4. What do you think of the Red Heifer ceremony that we read in Numbers 19? What about the Red Heifers that were found in Texas?