

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

November 13, 2023 – The Cry of the Bride: Maranatha – Stuart Greaves

How Understanding the End Times Can Change Your Life – Part 4

Firstly, I see Jesus' concern regarding the coming deception and the need for truth (Matthew 24: 4, 11, 23-26). Secondly, we find the global context (Matthew 24: 6-7, 9-10, 12, 29, 40-41). Thirdly, the chapter gives us Jesus' counsel (Matthew 24: 4, 6, 13-14, 32-33, 42, 44-45).

These three components are intimately woven together.

Emphasizing one without the others can potentially lead to cynicism, speculation, and burnout.

Because of our yearning for knowing what the future holds, it is easy to focus on the global context and miss out on Jesus' concern and counsel designed to equip the Church to be glorious and victorious at the end of the age.

Jesus gives us eight points of counsel to equip us for the task at hand to be His witnesses:

1. Do not be deceived (v. 4)
2. Do not be troubled (v. 6)
3. Endure to the end (v. 13)
4. Preach the gospel (v. 14)
5. Learn the parable of the fig tree (v. 32)
6. Know the nearness (v. 33)
7. Watch (v. 42, 44)
8. Faithfully feed the people in due season (Isaiah 33:6, Jeremiah 3:15, Matthew 24:45)

The Lord does not want His Church to simply be observers of end-time trends as they unfold.

Like He told the church of Laodicea, "I counsel you," Jesus has counsel for us as we see deception increasing and the global context shifting. Jesus' plan is to prepare His people with wisdom from the Holy Spirit.

Just like when He raised up John the Baptist to prepare the way for His first coming, the Lord is raising up in our day men and women of all ages who will understand what Scripture says about Christ's return and will be able to share those truths with others.

We are called to serve as beacons like John, whom Jesus called a "burning and shining lamp" in his generation (John 5:35). It will take diligence, but the Lord will give wisdom to all who ask.

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We cannot but continue to really understand the importance of the end time message.

Let us not be dismissive of this reality, specifically as evidenced by the natural war ensuing right now.

We cannot simply allow a proximity of understanding. Instead, allow these studies to penetrate our hearts so that we really know it. Know it with depth, in length, and even in height and width. Comprehensive understanding will grant wisdom towards application. Then the we have the ability to train others.