

## 11–16–2020 End Times Bible Study Summary #15, Last Lesson

This is my summary of our brief end times study. There is one term which I forgot to explain to you. It is *parousia* (Gk.: παρουσία). The word simply means, “meet.” It was frequently used of people such as a king, emperor, or governor to visit a city. Theologians use the phrase as a technical term for Jesus’ return. I am not aware of any Bible translation which use the word “parousia.” They use simply ‘meet’ or ‘come.’ For the theologians use the Greek transliteration as a technical word referring to the “coming of the Lord, rather than translation.

I would urge you to copy and save especially Lessons 12 (Dispensational Theology), 13 (Millennialism), 14 (The Mark of the Beast) and then this summary. That will give you the most important themes to remember. I regard # 12–Dispensational Theology as a false teaching. The problems with #13–Millennialism comes with the struggle to understand exactly what was meant by the 1,000 year reign of Jesus. Sometimes people try find answers that God has not yet given us. The problems with the Mark of the Beast comes from the failure to pay close attention to the fact that God says there are two groups: 1. Children of God, and 2. Children of Satan, or believers and unbelievers. We will have either the “Mark of God” or the “Mark of the Beast.” Which mark would you rather have when Jesus returns? People who teach and preach the end times to create fear are false prophets. They will get you excited about your inability to buy food to feed your family.

I think the mark of the beast is best compared to the branding of cattle. The mark is to indicate to whom you belong. When I stand before Jesus I want the brand of God. That is why we noted the words of Luke in 21:27–28. When you see earth collapsing in on itself, those with the mark of the beast will be cringing in fear, but God’s children will lift up their heads because they know their redemption is drawing near!

It is also very important to realize when the “last days” (plural) began. Jesus make it clear that the last days began when he came to earth. The last day (singular) is the final day of our planets existence. God says it will be destroyed by fire. Many of the false prophets spend time trying to tell you when the last days will begin instead of confessing they are already here. It really changes your perspective when you realize we have been in the last days for over 2,000 years. The foolishness of those exercises is shown when they try to predict how close we are to the end now. Jesus told us very clearly, “No one knows the day or the hour of his return.” So what does that mean for us? Be ready ALL the time.

The fear mongers talk about the END and the TRIBULATION in the scariest way possible. They seem to believe you can scare the hell out of people. Nobody is scared away from hell. The threat of punishment and judgment do not give life, but they can make us aware of our need for a savior. Only the gospel can give life.

Don’t get taken in by the RAPTURE. Read John 5 and 1 Cor. 15. There will be one universal resurrection at the end of time. Jesus never taught the tribulation as something we could escape. He did tell us not to worry about it because it would be cut short for the sake of the elect.

Remember especially that the SIGNS of the times give us multiple memory triggers that neither we or this world are forever. There is only one sign that absolutely marks the last day: Matthew 24:14. It is not up to any human to decide then the gospel of the kingdom has been proclaimed as a testimony to all nations. God will decide when that happens and then the end will come. If we quit sharing the gospel of the kingdom before Jesus returns, we have quit too early.

If you still have questions that are troubling you, I welcome hearing from you trying to answer them for you. God does not answer all our questions on this side of eternity. The promise of 1 Corinthians 13:12 is that we will know God as fully as he knows us, but only after our resurrection and his return.

Tomorrow we begin a journey through The Gospel of John. This is the testimony about Jesus from his closest earthly friend. On the cross he commissioned John to care for Mary, his mother. My daily prayer is, "Lord, come quickly." The Rev. Dr. Milan G. Weerts [StrongInChrist@cfl.rr.com](mailto:StrongInChrist@cfl.rr.com)