

## The Struggle is Real

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Eph 6:12

That reality, although often unspoken, is driving our insatiable appetite to try to know and control the future. In our society people flock to psychics, tarot cards, palm readers, superstitions, ancient calendars, UFO's, alien encounters, tea leaves, astrology, horoscopes and anything else that will give them some sense of security about the future. People flock to these options because they are increasingly becoming unsettled. We all know because we all feel it. We are all headed to some big event. We get this sense that our planet is on the brink of a disaster.

People are prepping for any number of possibilities none of which seem too good- isolated or coordinated terrorist attacks, electromagnetic pulses, nuclear explosions, asteroid impact, plagues, famines, biological weapons, moral implosion, ethnic wars, race wars, economic wars, tsunamis, hurricane, global warming, and hundreds of other concerns. In our interconnected world, a virus that begins in a small village of only a few people in a remote area of the world can cause a worldwide epidemic in days. With these potential disasters looming on the horizon, it is amazing that anyone finds any sense of peace. No wonder substance abuse, anxiety and depression are becoming a normal part of the human experience.

Well, there are some people who don't seem too freaked out about the future. In fact, they have a genuine sense of peace amid what is a very chaotic world. They look forward to the days ahead and even call it a “blessed hope”. They don't live in denial, they are not psychotic and their drug screens are usually negative. In fact, their view of what is about to happen is far worse than most people imagine. They would tell you with confidence that what is coming is not one of the events above, but perhaps all of them. In fact, they seem to know what is going to happen before it happens. Yet, they live confidently and peacefully within that truth.

It is human nature to fear what we don't understand...to fear what we feel we can't control. Yet many have found answers amid an ancient manuscript. In fact, they are convinced that God himself wrote those words long ago. They believe that they know the future because God has told them. Because they know in advance what is going to happen, their fear is replaced with concern.

Now to join us in this series, or any series at Remnant for that matter, you do not have to believe in God, you don't have to believe what is in the Bible, and you don't have to agree with us.

God and the Bible will reveal themselves to you when your heart is ready.

But for the purposes of this study. I am going to explain to you why I, along with millions of others, believe that this book was written by God and is the sole error free source of explanation for what is happening in our world today and will happen in the future.

This collection of ancient manuscripts **PHOTO 1** Written over 1500 years by about 40 authors most of whom never knew each other. It is a book that claims the author is God and it is God's Story of He and man. Crazy right? How could God write a book?

Years ago, I was searching for answers and I decided it was time to figure out this Jesus thing once and for all. So I began reading the Bible with a heart focused and open to seeing the truth and deciding for myself. I began reading the Book of John.

I came across a verse that really made me start thinking.

John 14:28–29 (ESV) — 29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

If God really did tell us these things before they happened and then they actually happened exactly as He said they would....Even with my skeptical heart....I would not be able to ignore that kind of evidence. I mean how could 40 authors over 1500 years describe the same events that haven't happened yet with extreme detail and internal consistency if God didn't tell them what to write?

But I wasn't going to blindly believe that God really wrote this book- I demanded that God prove it to me.

Surely I thought, if they were able to predict something thousands of years later and it actually happened exactly as they said.....that would be something....particularly if it happened more than once.

Well it turns out that the number of separate prophetic topics in the Bible is not just a few but actually 737. It represents 27% of the Bible.

Ok so what if these 737 individual predictions were obvious. You know...the sun will rise each morning.....the moon will never become a square.....Water will seem wet....So what are these predictions about anyway? Well it turns out that most of the predictions had to do with the arrival on earth of a Messiah, the future events of the world, and the return of Messiah to judge the world.

Of the 333 prophecies about this Messiah, there are over 300 references in the Bible about Him coming to us. One out of every 30 verses. 23 of the 27 New Testament Books mention the Lord's coming. Jesus Himself refers to His second coming at least 21 times. There are 1,527 Old Testament passages that refer to the second coming.

For every time the Bible mentions the first coming, the second coming is mentioned 8 times.

People are exhorted to be ready for the return of Jesus Christ over 50 times.

The Bible tells us that this Messiah will come the first time to show us God and to reveal how much He loves us. Then He will die by crucifixion, resurrect, return to Heaven and, after a period of time, will come back a second time to judge those who reject Him.

So I thought....this should be easy. Did the Messiah come exactly as predicted the first time? Did He do exactly what the Bible said He would be able to do? How many of these predictions about the first coming turned out to be wrong?

This one person was Jesus Christ and His presence on earth undoubtedly changed everything. Even the greatest skeptics acknowledge that Jesus was incredible. They agree that He did miracles only God could do...Heal people, raise them from the dead, control nature, overcome death....and many others.

It turns out that Jesus fulfilled, without a single error, over 300 prophecies during His lifetime on earth. He fulfilled them exactly and completely even down to the craziest detail. Many of these prophecies were completely out of His control. In fact, many of the prophecies made absolutely no sense to the person who wrote them. Imagine writing a document, describing something that makes no sense, but knowing it is what you are compelled to write. That is what makes prophecy even more amazing. The writers had no reason to write this stuff unless God was directing them.

His birth? Fullfilled prophecy included Born of a virgin, Tribe of Judah, Descendent of King David, from Galilee, born in Bethlehem, birth announced to wise men who would bring gifts, born where infants would be slaughtered, escaped to Egypt, lamb of God announced to shepherds, preceded by a star in the sky.

His Life? Rejected by the Jewish People, triumphant entry into Jerusalem on...of all things...a donkey, praised by little children, incredible miracles would not be believed or would be ignored, betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of not gold but silver....

His death?....on a cross that had not even been invented yet, surrounded by scoffers who divide His clothes and gamble for them, he was silent before His accusers, pierced in his side, bones not broken which was customary, pierced in his hands and feet, crucified between two criminals, given vinegar to drink, ridiculed by His enemies, Thirsty on the cross, would commend His Spirit to the Father, ...

His resurrection? On exactly the day predicted, buried with the rich, appears to many, reveals the Scriptures, Ascends to heaven, leaves the Holy Spirit,

He fulfilled over 33 prophecies in a single day when He died on the cross. And all of that was just about His first coming to earth. Not one was wrong.

So, if every prediction about his first coming was dead on accurate, and the second coming is mentioned 8x more, I can have great confidence that this collection of ancient manuscripts might be worth investigating.

But maybe they just got it right with this Messiah guy. What about the other prophecies. Were they accurate too?

In 700 BC Isaiah wrote that there would be a Medo-Persian King by the name of Cyrus. He predicted the rise of King Cyrus, the deportation of people to Babylon and their return to their land. All done 160 years before it ever happened.

In 530 BC the prophet Daniel predicted that there would be 4 Great Gentile powers in the History of the World...these 4 Gentile powers would rule the known world in the following order....Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. These 4 Gentile Powers ruled exactly as predicted and no one has ruled the entire world since the Fall of the Roman Empire. Many have tried but none have or will succeed.

The Prophet Daniel predicted to the exact day, the day that the Messiah would arrive in Jerusalem and present Himself at the Temple. His prophecy was so well known and anticipated that people lined the streets with palm branches.

Around 630 BC the prophet Jeremiah predicted that the wicked people of Judah would be taken captive by the Babylonians and their captivity would last for exactly 70 years.

Want to guess what happened? The Babylonians held them captive for exactly 70 years.

737 Prophecies about 60 percent have occurred and are validated with 100% accuracy.

I don't know about you but that tells me two things....1) This book predicts things only God could know and 2) I want to know what this book says about the future....my future.

What does this book say about His return? Welcome to the Study of the End Times.

So we are about to embark on a journey to learn what God says in the Bible about the future. But I want to put up a few guardrails for our study.

First, we have to be careful to avoid sensationalism. PHOTO 2 Sometimes in our desperation to make sense of what is happening in our world, we are too open to sensationalist claims.

Date setters.....people who try to identify the Antichrist....who try to make every earthquake, disease, disaster or conflict is a sign of the end times. For many, everything that happens is a sign that Jesus is coming back soon.

The problem is that when everything becomes a sign the nothing actually is a sign.

We must make sure that we view current events through the light of the Bible rather than looking at the Bible through current events.

Second, we must avoid is the opposite of sensationalism, scoffing at the signs of the time. Many today react negatively to any sign of the end times.

They say that it is foolish and unwarranted to look for or even talk about end times scenarios. But is this view supported in Scripture?

Look at Jesus' rebuke of those who ignored signs of the times...

Matthew 16:2-3 (ESV) — 2 He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' 3 And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

Jesus clearly expects His followers to recognize the sign of the times.

Third, we need to embrace an understanding of the complexity of this topic and our human limitations when it comes to understand fully the things of God.

It is good to hold strong convictions about prophecy. The Lord wants us to study, understand, and experience transformation. He would not have told us so much about the future if He didn't want us to come to some strong convictions about it.

But this is what we need to embrace...We have to avoid getting into arguments, demeaning or getting angry with other believers who hold differing interpretations on various points of prophecy.

Jesus said that His followers should be able to recognize the signs of the times. What does that mean?

"Signs of the Times" are visible events, sometimes miraculous that point to something beyond themselves. They help us to know what to look for and what to pay attention to.

Jesus teaches that before he returns to judge the world, there will be clear signs that occur ahead of time to prepare us. When we see these specific thing happening we know that His return is imminent.

When the disciples asked Jesus what those signs would be, He didn't tell them "Don't worry about signs of end times" or "I'm not going to tell you because it is none of your business." We will see that He outlined and gave general and specific signs of the end times.

And after doing so...He told them about the fig tree.

Matthew 24:32-33 (ESV) — 32 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

It is important though to understand what Jesus means when He speaks of His return. There will be a day when Jesus physically and visibly returns to earth to bring justice to those who have opposed God. When He speaks of signs of the times He is speaking of the events right before He steps back into His creation again.

However, the Bible teaches, in my opinion, that prior to that event Jesus will not return to earth but will meet His followers in a cloud. A moment that we call the rapture.

The next major event in prophecy is the Rapture of the Church. There are no signs in Scripture that point to the Rapture. From the moment Jesus left He told all of us to be ready for His return at any moment.

Dr John Wolwood describes it this way. There are all kinds of signs each year to let you know that Christmas is coming. Lights everywhere, trees, decorations, music....lots of signs about Christmas. But Thanksgiving can sneak up on you. There are no real signs for Thanksgiving. He says that the Second Coming of Jesus is like Christmas, lots of signs that should be obvious. But the Rapture is like Thanksgiving. There are no signs, but when you see the signs of Christmas everywhere and Thanksgiving has not arrived, you know it must be very near. The signs of Christmas are appearing all around us today....The coming of Christ to rapture His church, I believe is very near.

So when we speak of the signs of the times, we are speaking about what will be happening on earth during the time immediately prior to Jesus' return to earth and Armageddon.

We will learn that most of these signs will occur I believe after the church has been raptured. In fact, I believe that the rapture and the removal of the Spirit of God will be the next event. It will be catastrophic and will set up the events for the Antichrist.

Signs signs everywhere a sign....

It is interesting that what has most Bible scholars recognizing the end times is not just a single sign. But on the dashboard of end times, the warning lights are all going off and what is unique is that they are all going off together. There are signs in the heavens, signs in nature, signs in the news, signs in the Jewish feasts, everywhere you look, prophetic signs are flashing in neon.

The stage is being set and many of the prophecies and predictions in Scripture are coming to pass before our very eyes. Every day the news reads like the prophetic books of the Bible.

The story of end times will play out on earth in physical events, but the real battle is a Spiritual one. Where Satan and Jesus will battle for you eternity and mine. Since the battlefield of Satan is our mind, it is not surprising that the first sign of the time that we need to explore has to do with the way we think about the world.

Let's look at the First One. I am going to spend all of today talking about his one sign, because it is the most subtle, the most harmful, and the sign that has catapulted to the front over the last 15 years of so. It has been embraced by the majority of people today and it is what Jesus calls "the wide road that leads to destruction."

1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) — 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (ESV) — 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2 Timothy 3:12–13 (ESV) — 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

In the last 15 years or so, apostasy has exploded on the world scene. People have devoted themselves to the teachings of demons- Satan's theology. I am not speaking of demon worshipers. I am speaking of good people, with good hearts, who love other people, who want the best for the world, who care about what happens....Good wonderful people are buying the lies of Satan, rejecting the truth of God, and it will cost them their eternity if they don't repent.

They are following a new religion, a new faith, and most of them don't even know it. And..more importantly Satan has brought this faith in so subtly and with such appeal that most people don't even recognize it.

Like everything Satan does, this false teaching at first blush seems good, seems to fit with what we think should happen, makes since to us.....So good people, with good hearts, who want to do good....get deceived.

So while we look for physical signs on earth, God tells us that the warning signs will include a global acceptance of the lies Satan has placed in the minds of those who follow him.

Satan has a very clear agenda to challenge and change the way people view the world and particularly the way they view God. He will soon be sending his representative the Antichrist, but first he must prepare people to get ready to follow him.

The Scriptures predict that there will be a growing Apostasy or departure from the Lord as we get near to the end of times. It is not that people will doubt the Scriptures, they openly reject them and become intolerant of those who embrace them.

But before we dive into specific apostasies, I want to explain something to you about what it means to follow Jesus. We all have opinions that we have developed throughout our lives. We hold on to those things and have strong emotional ties to them. They can be our lifelong held beliefs about sexual preferences, relationships, ways to God, religion.....

What may surprise those of you who do not follow Christ is that you keep many of those opinions when you surrender to Jesus. It is only over time that the Holy Spirit changes your perspective to align with God's truth.

For instance, you may see nothing wrong with homosexuality or sexual intercourse outside of marriage. You may think that what two people do in the privacy of their own home is up to them. You may think that they would be great parents. You may think that their two people who love each other should be together in whatever way the two of them decide. You may believe that you have no right to weigh in on their personal life. We all have strong opinions on this topic and many others.

But here is what you may not know about Christians. Many of us left to our own opinions may agree with you. From our limited human understanding those things make sense. But let me explain why we can tolerate and love those who gay, but we cannot agree with them that what they are doing is not a sin.

When I surrendered to Jesus I surrendered to embracing His truth instead of mine. I committed to agreeing with Him even if I didn't understand. I surrendered to the truth that He knows far more than me and owes me no explanation of his truths. I surrendered to the reality that while I may have strong opinions, His truth trumps my thoughts every time. He created me and the world...enough said.

A key part of truly surrendering to Jesus is to agree to represent His truth, to embrace His truth, and to recognize that if I disagree with any of His truths- the problem is with my understanding- not Him

He clearly throughout the Scriptures calls homosexuality a sin but with the same vigor, he calls heterosexuality outside of a marriage covenant sin too. When people ask me about my opinion on these things, I don't have one. God has spoken.

Because everything else in his Scriptures are true and because I have seen that His way is best, I have no problem representing Him instead of me.

When I made Jesus Lord of my life, I became His servant, His representative, and His ambassador. Just like the US Ambassador speaks for and represents the President of the United States, he sets aside his own personal opinion and speaks for the one who sent him.

In areas where God has spoken in His Word, His truth is final. My opinion on these topics doesn't matter...I agreed to represent my Lord.

When it comes to truths revealed in the Scriptures, being a Christ Follower is not about changing your opinions, it is about not having one. Jesus is not looking for our opinion, He is looking for our obedience.

This is important to understand because God is going to challenge the way many of us think. He is going to ask us to wake up and see that we are being deceived.

So with that said, let's dig deeper into the Apostasy of our times

Apostasy is a complete and total rejection of everything God stands for. It is a complete attack on the truth of God's moral standards, God's laws, God's truth, God's plans, God's message, God's people and ultimately God Himself. It starts out like a cancer slowly growing but then builds and before many recognize it- they are in serious trouble.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV) — 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

God tells us in Scriptures that we are either following Jesus or Satan. Of course being deceived by Satan never feels like following him and may not feel like rejecting God, but God is pretty clear on this one.

Jude 1:18-19 "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit."

Matthew 24:10-12 (ESV) — 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.



This open, deliberate, willful repudiation of the truth of the Bible is described in Scripture as one of the major characteristics of the last days of the church on earth. And it is this sign that has become rampant and widespread in the last 15 years and particularly in the last 5.

Let me contrast the Theology of God and the deception of Satan. I think through this exercise you will see how subtly Satan has shifted the mindset of global thinking.

The Sign of the Times is the global acceptance of an Apostasy that we call Humanism.

God told us to wake up and pay attention when He is being denied, his truth is being denied, and his existence is being denied. The warning sign goes on high beam when this ideology dominates world discussions and decisions. The Judeo-Christian truths that have supported the world stage for the last two thousand years are now very rapidly being replaced with a new foundational philosophy that is becoming worldwide and universally adopted- humanism. Which negates personal responsibility for sin, promotes human wisdom, scientific proof, and the denial of the supernatural.

Humanism replaces God with man. It denies the existence or influence of God. Rejects anything supernatural. Everything is understood by the human mind and faith is in the collective power of humans. It looks to science for all explanations, elevates creation over any creator, trusts collective human effort to solve the world's issues, denies any absolute truth, anticipates utopia via human awareness, centers on individual freedom and expression, teaching not just tolerance but acceptance of almost anything humans can imagine. It is the doctrine of Satan. It is the exact same doctrine that caused him to fall from heaven and deceive Adam and Eve...."You don't need God, you can become just like God."

God tells us that a key sign of the end times is when this false ideology becomes widely accepted and the doctrine of God is denounced.

It has happened in our world today, exactly as predicted in prophecy thousands of years ago.

This apostasy is a direct attack on the truths of God. God tells us that there is no middle ground. You are either following Him and His truths or you are deceived.

First let's look at what God tells us.... God tells us that we were created in His image, that we are deeply loved by Him, that He uniquely created us with gifts, personalities, and passions. That He created us to have a relationship with us and that we have huge potential. We are created in His image and thus have more value than any other created thing. That human life is the one of the most important gifts entrusted to us.

God tells us that we are highly valued and really great people. He loves us desperately, but we have one problem- we were born with a sin nature. That sin nature comes from man's decision to attempt to be god. And that nature keeps us from being all that He created us to be. Sin, as God defines it, is any action, decision, or thought that goes against what He has revealed as truth. God determines what a sin is, he is the judge.

God teaches us that we must take personal responsibility and accountability for our sins and we must agree with Him what is a sin and exactly what we have done. If we allow Jesus to take the punishment for our sins then He promises to forgive us, but we must agree with Him first. That way we can learn from our sins, avoid repeating them and reach the potential that He placed in us to become like Jesus.



So the clear message of God is that we are good people, deeply loved, but with sin issues that we must own, confess, and repent of. God just wants us to take responsibility for our decisions and trust Him to guide us. We must humble ourselves and agree with God. God always teaches that He loves the sinner but hates the sin. His love for us is truly unconditional. We aren't bad people, in fact there are no bad people, just good people who have been deceived by Satan and are living sinful lives.

Every human, God says, no matter what they have done can turn to Jesus, confess their sins, turn away from the lies of Satan and be saved. It is God's desire that no one perishes but that all are saved. God tells us He deeply loves every person but He also deeply hates sin- because of what it does to us. He is holy and will one day respond to those who have, over the years, cried out to right wrongs and bring justice to earth. God tells us that the punishment of sin is death, but Jesus took our place- if we will allow it.

Satan on the other hand teaches the exact opposite. God doesn't even really exist. You can be your own God. **PHOTO 3** You can define your truth. You can judge your self. You have the power inside of you- you just need to unleash it. But if you do believe that there is a God, If he does exist, God doesn't love you, he is mad at you because you always have disappointed Him, He expects you to be perfect and punishes those who are not. You are not responsible for your decisions and your opinion of sin is your truth. God can only love you if you are perfect and no one can be perfect. So God if he even exists, has rejected you because He has issues.

In fact, He is up in heaven right now judging you and critiquing everything you are doing. He wants to punish you and seems to find delight in it. Only an idiot would follow a god like that. Only those who are weak or stupid could believe the Bible. You are much more qualified to be the god of your life. Why would you surrender to such a crazy God when you can live in freedom. God says that you aren't good enough and you will never measure up to what He demands of you. God wants to take away your fun. Have you seen His anger problem? You aren't the problem....He is.

**Those who embrace Humanism sadly believe that God is their problem rather than their solution.** It is the expression of pride and arrogance that characterizes Satan. Many who have embraced humanism never learn that they can be deeply loved separate from their actions. They haven't ever experienced God's degree of unconditional love. They struggle to understand that love involves pointing out things that are hurting them. Many do not embrace the idea that it is their decisions and actions that are being challenged for the sake of trying to help them, not challenge who they are or their value as a person. This insecurity drives them to believe that any critique of their actions is a direct assault on who they are. Thus, efforts to guide them to own and take responsibility for their decisions and actions are labeled as bullying, hate crimes and intolerance.

Satan has deceived many to believe that you cannot call out a sin without hating the sinner.

It is the ultimate bondage for so many in our society. They cannot separate who they are from what they have chosen to do. So when anyone challenges their actions they believe that the person must not only hate their actions but them. In addition, they project that on to others. If someone has an idea or action that they disagree with, they are not a good person with a different idea, they must be a bad person.

Satan has effectively silenced any opposing voices regarding sin by claiming hatred and intolerance on the part of those who call sin....sin.

This demonic ideology is evident today as political correctness. No one is responsible anymore for the choices they make. Sins get renamed and responsibility is shifted to someone else. Sins are re-labeled as diseases: drunkenness become alcoholism. Sexual promiscuity becomes sexual addiction. Substance abuse becomes opiate dependence. Gluttony becomes obesity. Anger and violence now an impulse control disorder. Sins are given softer more acceptable names: adultery is now an affair, homosexuality is being gay or lesbian, fornication is now living together....even the word sin is offensive and has been renamed a poor choice...or a lapse in judgment....or a host of other terms that divert responsibility and accountability.

Let's continue our contrast

God tells us that He created us Man and Woman

Satan rejects this and says that we are some kind of cosmic accident that evolved into the greatest life form possible. There is not God so we don't need God to have created us. In addition, Satan says people can become and identify with any gender they desire. Not only can they choose their sex, but they have no personal responsibility for that choice, they were born flawed, God if He exists made a mistake, and man needs to correct it. Anyone who calls their sexual orientation a sinful choice is intolerant and assaulting them personally. Because people who hate the sin of sexual confusion can't possibly love the person, that would be too unconditional.

God tells us that He created marriage between a man and a woman. God tells us that sexual intercourse is reserved for a man and a woman in the covenantal foundation of marriage...It is a spiritual and physical union that celebrates the commitment and love of those who have made a covenant with each other and with God. It is a holy experience that celebrates love- our love for our spouse and God's love for us. It is God's way of bringing children into a family dynamic and avoiding innumerable diseases, relational stresses and unwanted pregnancies.

Satan rejects and says marriage is an archaic unnecessary covenant. But if desired, marriage can be between any number of people of any number of sexual orientations. It is not a spiritual union but rather a legal one.

Satan rejects and promotes homosexuality, bisexuality, heterosexual intercourse outside of marriage, sexual exploration, sex with children, and any other form of enlightened sexual expression. It is a physical act with no spiritual component. Two consenting adults can do whatever they want. If you have a fetish or a perversion you must have been born that way, because once again God must have made a mistake, and thus you are not accountable for anything except the expression of who you are. Anyone who disagrees or hates the sin of sexual immorality must hate the person as well. They must not only tolerate this behavior but approve of it as well.

God tells us that there is an absolute truth revealed in His Word to us and that if we live by it we will be blessed.

Satan says we can have our own truth...as we define it. And that everything is relative and your truth is what you decide to make it. Anyone who suggests that you should be accountable to God's truth is intolerant and is personally challenging who you are.

God tells us that innocent human life is to be very highly protected and sustained at all costs. That every person He created He knew in the womb before they were born and to take an innocent life is sinful. Human life is to be valued highly and much more than the life of any animal or created thing.

Satan says that we should decide if a child lives or dies. That every woman has a choice and that there are no consequences for their decision. That humans, animals and all created things have equal value.

God tells us that Jesus is the only way to restore our relationship with Him

Satan says we need no relationship with God because we can be our own god. If there actually is a god, there are many paths that lead to god and people can choose any of them. The greatest sin of our time is intolerance and by rejecting all other ways to God followers of Jesus are unloving and arrogant.

God tells us that we should place our trust in Him. That He alone is all that we need and more than we deserve.

Satan says we need to place our trust and security in ourselves. Humans don't need a God. We can find security in money, power, our nation, our military, our scientific understanding, our inner power. It is the human that should be celebrated, not God.

God says that we have a limited understanding of our world and His ways are higher than our ways. There are many things too wonderful for us to understand. There is a supernatural world that cannot be explained by natural things or a natural limited human mind.

Satan says that if we can't explain it then it must not be real. When it comes to God nothing supernatural is possible. If we can't explain it than God didn't do it. If human minds don't understand it then it is a myth.

We will see in the weeks to come that the Antichrist, who will be Satan's primary representative on earth, will mock and stand against everything God stands for. Just as Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen God, the Antichrist will be the visible representation of Satan in human form.

But before the Antichrist arrives on the scene, Satan must first prepare people to be ready to accept him. **Humanism is the foundational belief and doctrine of the church of Satan.**

The Antichrist will bring in a one world government, one world currency, one world religion of tolerance, one world military, and promise utopia on earth that celebrates man and denounces God.

Humanism is the deception planted and growing today, that allows Satan to finally one day rule the world.

And millions of good people, with good hearts, good desires, have been led into a very cleverly presented deception.

In fact, God tells us that one of the signs of the end times will be that even those who call themselves Christians will begin to embrace these lies and try to spiritualize their sin. False teachers will come and tell people what they want to hear. People will deceptively believe that they are following Jesus when in fact they are following Satan. Churches will try to blend the truth of God with the lies of Humanism in an attempt to stay relevant, to appease, people, pad their coffers, and to appear enlightened.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) — 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Matthew 24:24–25 (ESV) — 24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Yet Jesus has a sobering warning for those who refuse to stand on His truth.

Matthew 7:21–23 (ESV) — 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Satan's humanistic influence in our world is obvious. It is simple really. Everything God stands for and says is true, Satan calls a lie. Everything God says is good Satan says is evil. Everything God tells us to be careful of, Satan says is safe. Everything God calls sin Satan re-labels and says is a personal choice or a disease. Everything that God values, Satan devalues...including you and me.

I could go on for hours, but before you get too mad and turn this off, let me say one thing. That voice telling you that this is not true is not coming from God. I don't know if you agree with God's truth or not, I can't make you agree with anything I am saying. What is important is to remember that we are looking for signs that God said would signal end times.

In addition, since the time is near for the return of Jesus it is important that you know who you are truly following. If you are not following Jesus, I would rather that you hear it from me now, to hear later Jesus say He never knew you.

What makes this unique now and a flashing sign of the end times is that Satan's philosophy is now being accepted and promoted globally as the norm. **PHOTO 4** Particularly in the younger generations. Just as God predicted numerous times in the Scriptures.

So global apostasy is a warning sign that the end is near.

But it is only one of many. Next week we will look at several others. Any one of these occurring in our world would be an indicator, but we will see in the next few weeks that warning lights are flashing all over the place.

The only thing holding back the power of Satan in the world today is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. Christians are calling out the lies of Satan and the destructive ideology of our society. Once the rapture of God's people occurs, Satan will have unopposed spiritual oversight of the world. The primary presence of the Holy Spirit will have left the planet....again. Humanists will celebrate that intolerant Christians will have been punished and removed from the earth by god and now we can have a global universal religion celebrating the Human spirit.

Closing...My goal in this series is to get you to pay attention to what is happening around us. You may not like it, you may wish things were different, you may want to deny it, or you may completely embrace it. Regardless of what you think about it...it doesn't change the fact that God is sovereign and what He says will happen, will happen.

Your opinion about all this will not change THE future, but it will definitely change YOUR future.

Sometimes life feels like entering a dark theater and realizing you are coming in near the end of a play with several acts. We didn’t write it. We didn’t ask to be thrust into the play. Yet we can be certain this drama is nearing the last act. Even though we didn’t see the beginning of the play, we can look back and see its plot and direction. But how will we know when the final act is coming?

There are signs in every play that the final scene is being set up. If those events occur, we can be certain the last act is just ahead. What are the events, the characters, and the plot that will bring the play of world history to its predicted climax? Will we be wise enough to see it coming? Will we be ready?

The only way we can be ready is if we know something about the last act. In the coming weeks, we will examine some of the events that we know will occur based on biblical prophecy.

Lets Pray