

The 72**Mentoring Leaders and the Church for Real World Ministry**

Eschatology—Keys to the Last Days

September 19th, 2023**1 Welcome to the 72!****Luke 10:1 (CSB)**

¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

- The 72 identity is Jesus' glory manifesting in assigned places.

Romans 8:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

- The overarching agenda of God is the Kingdom of Heaven manifesting in His kids!

2 Why talk about the “Last Days”?

- We are inundated with so much teaching and prophetic Words surrounding the Last Days that it is actually creating confusion and chaos in the Bride of Christ.
- There is no perfect and exact teaching on the “Last Days.”
- Our tendency is to be drawn toward what personally fits our Biblical world view.
- There has never been a time in 2000 years where the Church did not believe it was the “Last Days”.
- Views of the “Last Days” are creating survivalist and escapist mindsets.
- My Big Question: Can there be a theological filter that grounds us in the promises of God and the foundational principles of the Gospel of the Kingdom while we're in the Last Days or not?

3 The Tension All Christians Feel

- It feels like the “Last Days,” right now.
 - We see the signs unfolding; and we feel the pressure of the End Times. (*Matthew 24 and 25*)
- The Pressure of Chaos and Evil
- Our Natural Response to End Time Signs Unfolding:
 - The Pull of the Extreme Right—*The Religious Zealot*
 - The Zealot hates what's going on in the world and seeks to bring all things under subjection to the commands of God; and therefore, their message shames and condemns.

- The Pull of the Extreme Left—**The Loving Universalist**
 - The Universalist also hates what's going on in the world and seeks to bring all things under compassion and acceptance regardless of diametrically opposing ideals; and therefore, their message promotes freedom of expression regardless of any truth.
- The Pull of the Middle—**The Peacekeepers**
 - The Centrist also hates what's going on in the world and seeks to create a laissez-fair system that does not intrude on anyone else's territory; and therefore, their message promotes kind-isolationism lacking depth or substance.
- Above all these natural responses, there is an OTHER response.
 - The Pull of Heaven—**Citizens of Another Country** (1 Peter 2:9-12)

Mark 1:15 (CSB)

¹⁵ “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

- “time” = kairos (This is God's season of divine manifestation and opportunity)

Luke 17:20–21 (NIV)

²⁰ Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, ²¹ nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

- The Kingdom of God has come!

4 Our Real Enemy in the Last Days: The Spirit of the Antichrist

1 John 4:3 (CSB)

³ but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.

- The Antichrist spirit has always been around—it is a principality spirit, perhaps even the “prince of the power of the air.” (Ephesians 2:1-2)
 - Our battle is not “against flesh and blood” or for the physical territories of this realm. (Ephesians 6:12)

1 John 2:18 (CSB)

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour.

- Our attitude: It is always the last hour!
- While there may be a day where there will arise an ultimate antichrist (the “Son of Lawlessness”, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12), we are always to be the same in every season.

5 What does Jesus call us to in the midst of seeming “Tribulation”?

- Jesus is “the Hope of Glory”.

Colossians 1:27 (CSB)

²⁷ God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- You are a bastion of hope, not fear and condemnation.

Romans 15:13 (CSB)

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Hope is THE characteristic that should be overflowing from your life.

- Our mission is the same regardless of the season. It's always a “kairos” season.

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- The Gospel is the agenda—giving away hope—until the end.

6 The Keys for Every Assignment in Every Season

Matthew 16:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Hebrews 2:1–4 (CSB)

¹ For this reason, we must pay attention all the more to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away.

² For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, ³ how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? This salvation had its beginning when it was spoken of by the Lord, and it was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ At the same time, God also testified by signs and wonders, various miracles, and distributions of gifts from the Holy Spirit according to his will.

7 A Final Word

John 18:36 (ESV)

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

John 15:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- The Message of Jesus regarding the Last Days: **Matthew 24-25**
 - The world goes from bad to worse under the powers of this age.
 - Always be prepared for My coming.
 - Invest and use what I give you for a greater harvest and return.
 - The Final Judgment will come, and its greatest test will be: “How did you love others?”