



## THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

EVANGELIST/ PASTOR DAVID W. LANKFORD

P.O. Box 502 Casar, NC 28020 Phone #704-538-8060 [www.thevoiceofevangelism.com](http://www.thevoiceofevangelism.com)

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### THE END IS NOT YET

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God views time much differently than man views time. And man has always been curious about prophecy—especially Biblical prophecy and the blessed return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider the thirty minutes of silence in heaven in **Revelation 8:1**, “**And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.**” Now, please don’t be offended, but some people may think it funny, so I sometimes wonder if the purpose of those thirty minutes is so all these prophecy teachers can finally get their prophecy charts updated. Go ahead and laugh because in **Proverbs 17:22** we read “**A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.**”

In **Matthew 24:4-8** we read, “**And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**” (my emphasis added).” All the wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes merely mark the beginning of the end—not the end itself.

In **Matthew 24:36**, Jesus was talking to His disciples about the coming of the “**Son of Man**” and said, “**But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**” You may ask the question ‘How could Jesus, being fully man and fully divine, not know when He will return?’ Then this next scripture is for

you. After Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, just before His ascension into heaven as the “**Son of God,**” the disciples asked when He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. In **Acts 1:7**, “**And He said unto them, it is not for you to know times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth**” (my emphasis added).” God knows that human beings are impatient creatures. In today’s society, that impatience is magnified. We don’t want to wait any longer—we want it now. But we must understand that this “human time” (from Adam until now) is merely an interruption of eternity, which is God’s perspective.

The Apostle Peter eventually obtained God’s perspective too. Let’s move ahead to the epistles written in the New Testament. In **2 Peter 3:8-9**, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the Apostle Peter said, “**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**” So, since one day “is as” a thousand years, and one thousand years “is as” 41.667 years to man. It also means that one minute with God “is as” .69445 months to man. It is now the year 2020 and we are approaching 2,000 years since Jesus’ resurrection and ascension.

Now don’t get me wrong. The Word

of God is clear that no mere man knows the day, or the hour, or even the times or seasons of our Lord’s return to earth. We can’t even think about setting dates. And since we are in 2020, we see nearly 2,000 human years since Christ’s resurrection. While we see centuries, in God’s eyes, He sees the resurrection of Christ “is as” two days ago. So, as believers, we should have His perspective and learn to be patient. In **Psalms 37:7-9** we read, “**Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.**”

In **2 Peter 3:1-4**, the Apostle Peter also writes, “**This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.**” Scoffers abound—even in the church—saying “I’ve been in this church since I was born and I’ve heard all this stuff all of my life—so when is Jesus coming back?”

So, to answer that question, let’s return to the Word of God. In **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** we read, “**Let no man deceive**

you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." The phrase "that day" in verse three is the coming of the Lord and the phrase "that man of sin" is no one other than the Anti-Christ himself.

Turn to **Jude 1:17-18** and read "**But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.**" And in **2 Thessalonians 2:7** we read "**For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he is taken out of the way.**" As a Christian, it grieves my spirit to hear these so-called preachers that are nothing more than ministers of doom and gloom trying to get you to act. And if you are not careful, you will start listening to so-called Christian ministers and Christian ministries that are feeding into this fallacy. The problem is that this negative, cancerous thinking gets into their spirit and they become just like the world—taking their eyes and their focus off Jesus Christ. Remember **1 John 2:15** which says, "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**"

Friends, make no mistake—trials are coming. In **2 Timothy 3:1** we read, "**This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**" And I know this—there will be a Third World War. The Anti-Christ will be revealed. And there will be a mark of the beast that will be introduced into the world and will be required to transact business and to move about freely. But this mark of the beast will not come as a surprise to anyone.

In **Revelation 13:16-17** we read, "**And he causeth all, both small and great, a**

**rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**" Now in the Greek, when it says "count the number of the beast" the word "count", in the Greek, means "compute." How in the world can John describe what he is seeing (computers and computer systems) except he use the only word he could—compute? Only God, in His sovereignty, show John that. Now the word "count" is #5585 (Strong's) and it says to reference #5586 which says "ticket for admission" but then it reference #5584 and that is where it says "to manipulate." Now this passage of scripture makes all the sense in the world. And he "causeth all"—there's your manipulation. That he causes all—small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads, that no man might buy or sell—that's your ticket for admission. The Anti-Christ will try to manipulate you by offering you a ticket for admission to get into the world system Let him who has understanding compute the number of the beast. So, it is a process—and no one is going to take the mark of the beast and not know what they have done.

In **Revelation 14:6-10** we read, "**And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach until them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud**

**voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb** (my emphasis added)."

Now let's go to **2 Timothy 3:12** "**Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**" The sad thing about deceived people is they don't even know that there are deceived. That's why you can't teach them anything—you can't show them anything. The only thing that can break this deception is the power of the Word of God and the power of the Holy Ghost.

In **Isaiah 40:29-31** we read, "**He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**" This is how I know that you can make it and endure until the end.

Let's review **2 Peter 3:8** one more time. "**But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**" Down through the last one hundred years, many of our parents and grandparents believed that their days were also the last days. And do you know what? They were right—and so was the early church. Each generation from Christ's resurrection until now has, in God's eyes, truly been the "last days." And Jesus is coming again. It is our "blessed hope."

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford