

Message Notes:

Message Series- How close are we to the end?

Message One: The Shape and Signs of the Coming Storm

Intro:

Ezk. 38: 1-4, 14-16

So, are we close to the end?

God promises a blessing to those who read it **Rev 1:3; 22:7**

Rev: 1:1: It is "the revelation from Jesus Christ."

Jesus is the center of the story.

God is in charge.

God is directing the timeline to its final conclusion.

God is not losing to what the devil is doing.

God is winning and will win.

Author:

The Book:

Rev. 1: 1: "soon to take place..."=

"to show"= make known through a sign or symbol, not to confuse but to illustrate the truth being presented

1: 3: "time is near..."= means _____

Overcomers: **Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 15:2; 21:7**

The History:

Passages on the end times and people's apostasy:

1 Tim. 4: 1-2

2 Tim. 4: 3-4

2 Tim. 3: 1-8

Matthew 24: 9-12

The Return

As these parallel tracks continue for a time, the next event will be the calling up of believers by Christ. Known as the "rapture" from the Latin word meaning "to catch away" it is described in:

1 Thess. 4: 13-17

1 Cor. 15: 51-54

This means that one generation of Christians will never experience death.

They will be alive and then Jesus will appear, and they will be caught up in an instant to be with Jesus.

Rev 3:10

Jesus says that he will keep them from the "hour of trial" that is coming on the whole earth. This points to the seven years of tribulation explained in Rev 6-19.

"I will keep you" means that Jesus will keep them from undergoing this time of testing rather than that He will preserve them in the time of testing.

This verse also indicates that only genuine believers at the time of the catching up will be kept from this terrible time. Those who become Christians during the 7 years of Tribulation will undergo the testing: **Rev 6: 9-11; 11:7; 12: 11; 13:7, 15; 17:6; 18: 24**

1 Thess. 1; 10 states that "Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come."

Deliver= to snatch out for oneself; to save; deliverance from an enemy

1 Thess. 4: 16-17

"caught up" = harpazo = snatched up or taken away; to take away suddenly

SMALL GROUP LESSON

Look Back:

Growing up, what stories or accounts did you hear about the end times? How did they make you feel?

Look Up:

One: What impact does the imminent return of Christ (that Jesus could show back up at any moment to bring His people home) make in your daily life?

Two: Why do we spend so much time on our home here on earth and so little time preparing for our home in heaven?

Three: What steps should you be taking now to prepare your heart for the imminent return of Christ?

Look Forward:

This week, read Revelation 4. Think about what is happening in heaven right now. Allow the praise of heaven to be your focus rather than the problems of earth.

With the end closer than ever, what one person is the Lord putting on your mind to share Jesus with this week:
