**DEVELOPPING A MIND SET FOR THE END TIMES**

**Session One – Introduction**

**1)** **THE CALL TO PREPARE FOR WHAT IS TO COME**

**The Bible commands us to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for the end times.**

a) **Jesus told his followers to watch and to be ready at least 7 times!**

“If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him”. (Matthew 24, 43, 44)

See also (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33-35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15)

b) **Jesus commands us to know the signs of the End times that are prophesied in the Bible and to watch for their fulfillment**.

He says; “Learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs become tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that (my coming) is near, right at the door.” (Matt. 24, 32-33).

c) **Paul tells us we should prepare ourselves and not be surprised at what is to come in the end times.**

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, **let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober”** (1 Thessalonians 5, 3-6)

**d) Jesus also warns the majority of the church will fall away in the times to come**

“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other… Because of the increase of wickedness, **the love of most will grow cold**”

(Matthew 24, 10-12)

In the parable of the 10 virgins, half didn’t make it into the wedding feast (Matthew 25, 1-13).

**Q. How prepared are you?**

**2) WHAT IS TO COME?**

a) I believe that we shouldn’t expect the next generation to be as peaceful and prosperous as the last generation. Much of the world has enjoyed 70 years of relative peace and a great increase in prosperity.

b) Across the earth, God has been using the COVID pandemic to transform His Church and to warn them of more difficult times ahead.

c). God, in His kindness, sent a Lion and a bear to attack David’s flock because He knew that Goliath was around the corner (1 Samuel 17, 34).

d) **The End times will be completely unparalleled for the numbers of deaths through warfare, famine, plagues and natural disasters.**

in just ONE sequence of events, in the early days of the chapter before Jesus comes back, one quarter of the earth’s population die (Rev. 6, 8).

e) **There is a significant amount of material in the Bible about the end times.**

There are 89 chapters in the 4 Gospels which give us a record of the things that happened at Jesus’ first coming. There are over 150 chapters in the Bible that give us a record of what will happen at his second coming. These 150+ chapters reveal the same Jesus working by the same Holy Spirit to bring in the same Kingdom as recorded in the same Bible.

For a list of these chapters, visit [www.mikebickle.org/watch/mb\_2888](http://www.mikebickle.org/watch/mb_2888)

**THREE FORCES WILL COMBINE TO CREATE THE UNIQUE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE CHAPTER BEFORE JESUS COMES AGAIN.**

**3) THE GROAN OF CREATION**

**a) The earth is being destroyed through the sin of its people.**

“The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as the result of their deeds” (Micah 7, 13).

 “The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people ….
Therefore a curse consumes the earth; The earth’s inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.” (Isaiah 24, 4-6)

 “The creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

**We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time**. (Romans 8, 20-23)

**b) In the end times, multitudes will die because of things that will happen to them through the natural creation.**

“A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter. “ (Rev. 8, 11)

“The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God” (Rev. 16, 8-9)

c) A sign tells you where you are. These signs in the heavens are given by God to indicate where we are on God’s prophetic calendar.

d) The devil will try to obscure the signs by providing scientific and pseudo-scientific explanations as to why these events are occurring, contradicting the Biblical narrative.

**4 THE RAGE OF THE DEVIL**

As we move towards the end times, the Bible tells us that there is an increase in the work of the devil.

a) An increase in intensity. “He (the devil) is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” (Rev. 12, 12).

b) An increase in his influence. Both Jesus and Paul talked about “the increase of wickedness” in the end times. (Matt. 24, 12; 2 Tim. 3, 1-5)

c) An increase in his control. Psalm 2 gives an as yet unfulfilled prophecy of a banding together of world leaders with the purpose of removing what they see as the bondage of Biblical values. “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles.’” (Psalm 2, 1-3).

d) True believers will stand against this agenda, leading to them being persecuted all over the world. “You will be hated by all nations” (Matthew 24, 9).

e) Because of the pressure, many Christians will fall away. “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other”(Matt. 24, 10)

f) The devil’s control will culminate in most of the world coming under the control of a one government led by the anti-christ. “He will extend his power over many countries” (Daniel 11, 42).

g) For the last 42 months before Jesus comes back, unless you worship the anti-christ, you won’t be able to receive the mark, and so will be unable to buy or sell, receive health care, education, utilities, communicate or travel.

“(the beast) was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast – all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life… No-one could buy or sell unless they had the mark (of the beast)”. (Rev. 13, 7-8 & 17).

**5) THE WARFARE OF GOD**

a) The Bible tells us that in the last days, **God Himself will step into the battle in a more tangible way.** It’s a time that the Bible refers to as “The day of the Lord”.

**Just as Jesus stepped in to cleanse the temple, in the time before Jesus comes back, the Bible shows us God stepping in to cleanse the world.**

b) God has stepped into battle in a limited way, at various times in various nations throughout history. But this time it will be universal in scope and unprecedented in the manifestation of His power and purpose.

‘For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back.

But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. I will lay waste the mountains and hills; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not know; I will turn the darkness into light before them. But those who trust in idols will be turned back in utter shame”. (Isaiah 42, 14-17)

**The battle will be on two fronts;**

c) God will transform the church from a weak and compromised, human inspired organization to become a strong and glorious, spirit-filled bride.

“The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready”

(Rev. 19, 7)

“Christ made her (the church) holy, … a radiant church without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish” (Eph. 5, 26-27)

The prophet Joel talks about a time when God will pour out His spirit on every people group. That scripture, quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost, has only ever been partially fulfilled.

“And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Joel 2, 28-32)

d) **God will fight against anything that stands in the way of His Kingdom**

In many of the prophetic books of the Bible, you see God dramatically pouring out His judgments on the earth. In the Book of Revelation, these are detailed in the sounding of God’s 7 trumpets (Rev. 8 & 9) and the pouring out of the 7 bowls of God’s wrath (Rev. 16).

**God’s end time actions will be like the coming together of the miracles from the book of acts combined with the plagues of Egypt multiplied in power and taking place on a global scale.**