

## **Is the End upon Us?**

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 14, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2024

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – First Thessalonians 5.1–2

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on the Second Coming

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. A solar eclipse,**

- A. an earthquake in the North East,
- B. war in Israel,
- C. Jews preparing red heifers, and
  - 1. add anything else that you would like, and
  - 2. people get all excited,
    - a) believing that the return of Jesus is about to happen.

#### **II. How many spectacular events have occurred in history**

- A. since the first century?
- B. Why would the events of our generation be a sign?
  - 1. Just look at the last century and
  - 2. you will see far more impressive events.

#### **III. What these people often do is try to show**

- A. that events of their day fulfill Scripture.
- B. However, I want to show you some things to think on,
  - 1. things that will keep you from believing these date setters.
  - 2. Some do not set dates, but
    - a) they still like to give everyone the impression
    - b) that the Second Coming is about to happen,
      - (1) most likely in this generation.
      - (2) I want to show you how to think on this topic.

#### **IV. I am not calling into question**

- A. anyone's sincerity, but
- B. I am calling into question their understanding of the Scriptures.
  - 1. They keep getting it wrong.
  - 2. Therefore, there has to be something wrong with their interpretation.

**V. Regardless of their sensationalism,**

- A. regardless of all the Scriptures they use,
- B. regardless of the numbers of them that believe these things,
  - 1. do not believe them.
  - 2. They have been 100% wrong in the past,
    - a) they will be 100% wrong in the future.
    - b) Let me show you why.

**Persuasion:**

**I. The Second Coming Is Different than the First Coming**

- A. Hebrews 9.23–28
- B. The first time he came he wanted us to know when.
  - 1. Hence, all the prophecies.
  - 2. He wanted us to repent and be saved.
- C. The second time he comes to see how we are living.
  - 1. Have we remained faithful?
  - 2. In other words:

**1 The wicked flee when no one pursues,  
But the righteous are bold as a lion.**

**– Proverbs 28.1**

- 3. Jesus spoke of parables to this effect,
  - a) that he has gone away, but

- b) he will return, yet,
  - (1) he has not revealed when that will be,
  - (2) so that he can see if his servants have been faithful.
    - (a) We are servants.
    - (b) It is our job to be ready at all times.

## **II. We Cannot Know the General Nor the Specific Time**

- A. Matthew 24.32–51
- B. First Thessalonians 4.13–5.5

## **III. The Purpose of the Second Coming**

- A. Remember Hebrews 9.
  - 1. He came the first time to redeem us from sin.
  - 2. The second time he comes to redeem us from the earth.
- B. To punish: Second Thessalonians 1.6–10
- C. Not to set up an earthly kingdom.
  - 1. Jesus is a priest forever
  - 2. He cannot be a priest on the earth
- D. To retrieve his followers: First Thessalonians 4

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. I know that you cannot remember every point.**

- A. I even made it brief.
- B. What you need to know:
  - 1. Every past prediction has failed.
  - 2. What makes new predictions different?