



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	The End Times - Are We There Yet? (Part 1)	<b>SPEAKER</b>	DSP Edric Sng
<b>THEME</b>	End-Times	<b>DATE</b>	18th & 19th April 2020

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

The world is going through strange and uncertain times. Things are rapidly evolving and things change before we can even respond properly to the situation at hand. Knowing that the end times may be coming, we have no reason to be unprepared for what is to come. DSP Edric brings us through 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12, which talks about the end times, so that we know what to expect and how to respond.

## THE END TIMES - ARE WE THERE YET?

DSP Edric shows us four things that we can look out for and brings us through the end times timeline.

### 1) RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERING

Suffering is inevitable in this lifetime, but we should suffer for the right reason, which is to suffer for God and righteousness sake. God sees our posture and our hearts as we suffer for Him. As we get closer to the end times, there will be relief for us who are counted worthy for His Kingdom. (2 Thess 1: 5-6)

### 2) REVELATION OF THE SAVIOUR

The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels (2 Thess 1:7, 10). There will be no one on this earth who will be able to deny the existence of Jesus Christ. The second coming is something that Christians have been living our lives for and we look forward to His coming with our actions of praise and by spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth (2 Peter 3:11-12).

### 3) RECOMPENSE FOR OUR SINS

Jesus' second coming will be a problem for many as He will come no longer as a giver of grace. His return instead marks the end of the window of grace. He will come as a judge and punish those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of Jesus (2 Thess 1:8-9). In the modern Christian narrative, we tend to focus on the positive things and the other side gets lost in the mix of things, where the fear of the Lord prompts us to be

conscious to live lives to walk down God's righteous path. The good news is that for those who are saved, these scary words do not apply to us. The recompense for sins is for those who do not know God. It however does not mean that we can disobey God wilfully and abuse His grace.

#### 4) RESPONSE TO OUR SALVATION

How do we respond to our salvation, and the news that Jesus is coming again? We are reminded not to remain contented but to do good (2 Thess 1:11-12). We have been bestowed with the gift and privilege of salvation for a purpose, that the name of Jesus would be glorified in us through our words and deeds, pointing others in the direction of God.

#### END TIMES TIMELINE

The end times are when things take a dramatic shift and we are gearing up in trajectory towards a new heaven and earth.

*Good Friday/Resurrection Sunday* - Where Jesus died and resurrected, which kicked off what Bible scholars call the *Church Age* (Response to Our Salvation), which is where we are at presently.

Before the seven years of *Tribulation*, it is believed that there will be a pre-tribulation rapture (Relief for the Suffering). Existing believers will be taken up into the skies where we will meet Jesus in the clouds, following which the seven years of tribulation will commence in two waves, each one worse than the previous.

Prior to the end of the seven years, the anti-Christ will come back to life during Armageddon and amass troops to take on the forces of God. But the second coming of Jesus (Revelation of the Saviour) will happen, where He will then come through the clouds, stop the uprising attempt and subsequently reign on earth in the *Kingdom Age* with believers who had passed on earlier and did not have to go through the tribulation. For a thousand years, the devil will be held captive during Jesus' reign on earth with believers.

Nearing the end of Kingdom Age, a multitude of people will be convinced by a newly freed Satan to rise up against Jesus for an attempt at a final battle with the forces of God, but there will be no war; Jesus will put an end to it. The Great White Throne Judgement (Recompense for Our Sins) will commence; there will be a separation of the saved and unsaved. Those that have been found faithful will go to the *New Heaven and Earth*. The unsaved go to the Lake of Fire (Mathew 25) which was prepared for the devil.

#### CONCLUSION

One thing that the Bible is very clear on is that upon Jesus' second coming, we will be judged based on our actions and choices in this lifetime. If these are really the end times, we need to reflect on our faith and check if we are standing in right alignment with God during this window of grace, so that we may be found faithful and true to the gospel.

# QUESTIONS

1. In this life there will be suffering (Acts 14:22), but our suffering is for God's purposes and righteousness' sake. Have you experienced suffering as part and process of God's refining process? How has it helped you in your walk with God and the posture you adopt in worship unto Him?

2. The modern Christian narrative tends to focus on the 'good' things on being a Christian (God is my helper, the Holy Spirit heals, etc.) which makes us lose focus on the other side that also matters – which is to fear the Lord. What does it mean to fear the Lord? And how can fearing the Lord help us become better Christians?

3. If the second coming of Christ were to happen tomorrow, would you be prepared to face God and account to Him for your life on earth? How can we prepare ourselves and those around us so that we may be able to stand before Him in good faith and conscience?