



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The End Times and How You can Make a Difference (Part 2)

SPEAKER DSP Edric Sng

THEME End Times

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

DSP Edric recaps the timeline of the end-times. He points out that we are currently in the Church Age, where salvation is available to all who call on Jesus as Lord and Saviour. After the Church Age, there is a rapture to bring all believers up to be with God and escape the seven years of tribulation. Then, there comes the time of tribulation. In this sermon, DSP Edric explains the tribulation age and how believers can make a difference in these days before the time of tribulation.

THE TRIBULATION AGE AND HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I. SEVEN YEARS OF TRIBULATIONS

The seven years of tribulations are split into two halves: (1) the first three and a half years known as “birth pangs” and (2) the second known as “great tribulation.” During the “birth pangs” period, an anti-Christ and false prophet would come to power. The world would be deceived into believing that this anti-Christ is the saviour. During the “great tribulation” period, the anti-Christ would set up an abomination or idol for himself (Daniel 11:31). When that happens, there will be the great tribulation, worse than what we can imagine and have ever experienced (Matthew 24:21). Nearing the end of the seven years, the anti-Christ will gather people to engage in a final battle against God – known as “the battle of Armageddon.” Without much of a fight, Christ will triumph (Revelation 19:11-21) and the Kingdom age begins.

II. TRIBULATION IS ABOUT CONSEQUENCES AND GRACE

Tribulation is a window of both punishment and grace. Jeremiah 9:24 tells us that God is simultaneously exercising lovingkindness, judgement and righteousness. During the tribulation years, the just and righteous God metes out punishment for two groups who turned their back on Jesus: non-believers and the Jews. Read Romans 11 and Ezekiel 20 to learn about why and how God will deal with Israel as a nation.

At the same time, the loving and kind God also gives us grace and mercy. We see this in the gift of salvation given through the finished work of Jesus Christ, who paid the price of our sins. The tribulation years gives the non-believers one last chance to receive this gift of salvation. Revelation 7:9-17 is evidence of God’s grace as multitudes would come to know the Lord

during that time. It is also a window of grace for the Jews. From Romans 11:22-23, we learn that Jews who rejected Jesus will face severity; but those who do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in.

III. HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

During the tribulation years, believers would no longer be in the world physically. Today, we can also be physically gone from people's lives due to death or changes in life stages. However, the conduct of our lives can leave a legacy and impact others even after we are gone.

DSP Edric illustrates this with a children's tale. Hansel and Gretel had a stepmother, who thought of them as a burden. She wanted to get rid of them by abandoning them in the forest. At first, Hansel left trails of pebbles as he and his sister were brought into the forest. Those pebbles led them back to the father's home. Later, their stepmother discovered Hansel's trick and stopped him from collecting pebbles. Hansel was only left with a loaf of bread. So, he left trails of breadcrumbs. Unfortunately, the breadcrumbs were quickly eaten and the children could not find their way back.

DSP Edric exhorts believers to reflect on the trail that we are leaving in this world. Isaiah 52:7 talks about proclaiming peace and salvation. Do our speech and conduct publish peace and proclaim the Good News? Are we leaving pebbles that can lead others to the Father, or are we leaving breadcrumbs?

CONCLUSION

DSP Edric reiterates that there are many interpretations of the end-times – what, when and how it will happen. However, what is more important is why the Bible teaches us about the end-times. The end-times prompts us to reflect on our lives and where our souls will end up in eternity.

QUESTIONS

1. What happens during the tribulation age? What does it tell you about God's character and how have you experienced aspects of it?

2. If you have unbelieving loved ones or friends who may be left behind to bear the tribulation, what "stones" can you leave behind in your trail to help guide them back to the Father's arms? Think of one or two specific actions you can take.

3. Take a minute to reflect on the content from the last 2 weeks. Was there anything that spoke to you? Do you have any concerns, fears or questions about what the end times mean for you and your friends/families?