



How All This Ends

Take a Look: 150 feet of twine. A human life the width of a pencil line and the life of time the width of a piece of tape. Eternity Past →→ Time →→ Eternity Future

History is Linear: It begins, flows and ends somewhere specific. Where? How?

On the first Palm Sunday—March 30, 33 AD—1,976 years ago: Jesus presents Himself as the King of Israel. The common people accept Him but the leaders reject Him.

The events of the end times as they unfold from Palm Sunday:

- Jesus is crucified, buried, raised, and ascends to heaven. Matthew 26-28; Acts 1:9
- The New Testament Church is born. Acts 2
- The Church Age—an unknown length of time. Acts 15:14; Eph 1:22-23, 2:19-22
- The Rapture of the Church. 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Thess 1:9-10 with Rev 3:10
- The 7-year Tribulation Period. Mt 24:21-24; Dan 9:27, 12:1; Rev 3:10, 6:15-17, 16:1
- The Second Coming of Christ. Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7, 19:1
- The Millennial Kingdom. Rev 20:1-6
- The Great White Throne Judgment. Rev 20:11-15
- The New Heavens and the New Earth. 2 Peter 3:13; Rev 21:1
- Eternity without God in eternal punishment: Mt 25:41, 46, 18:8
- Eternity with God in eternal joy: Rev 21:9, 22:7

Note Well: Too many end times sermons end here. But the Bible goes a great distance from here in major life applications based on these end times realities to 40 exhortations!

Here are 3 of the 40 commands—in light of the end times we must live:

#1 ... with faithful witnessing. Acts 1:8.

#2 ... with holy conduct and godliness. 2 Peter 3:11.

#3 ... without fear (17 times in NT) but with hope (84 times in NT). Luke 12:32; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Thess 4:13; Rom 5:4, 5/15:4, 13.

Idea: I am obedient, fulfilled, and really happy...when I live a life aligned with the realities of the end times (as God sets up the end of time and ushers in eternity). **Purpose of God #8:** God is actively working to set up the culmination of history.

Please Note: End times study is secondarily about how all this _____ but it is primarily about how we _____ until all this ends!

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

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Purpose of God #8: God is actively working to set up the culmination of history.

- **Today:** Please give some thought, reflection, and prayer to the opening illustration this week of 150 feet of twine and your life being represented by a pencil-width line on that twine. What does that stir up in you?
- **Monday:** A good story starts somewhere, goes somewhere, and ends somewhere. God is a good Story Teller and His work of redeeming people is the greatest story ever told. What do you make of the fact that many details of the beginning, flow, and ending of God’s great story are not filled in?
- **Tuesday:** God has no “throw away characters” in His story. So you and I are in the story by God’s intention. What do you think is your part in the story of God as He redeems people and grows people and draws them to Himself?
- **Wednesday:** Please consider how you are doing on your “Faithful Witnessing Quotient.” What one thing will you do this week to increase your impact in the area of faithful witnessing?
- **Thursday:** Please consider how you are doing on your “Holy Conduct and Godliness Quotient.” Is there something you need to confess to someone and address in order to improve your holy conduct and godliness quotient? (I have no idea what this might be but God is reassuring you by prompting me to write this question that He knows and He insists that you turn away from it.)
- **Friday:** Please consider how you are doing in your “Fear Quotient.” What would reduce your personal fear quotient?
- **Saturday:** Please consider how you are doing in your “Hope Quotient.” What would improve your personal hope quotient?

God’s Confronting Questions:

- *Are you living your life in alignment with the end times? ...in alignment with American capitalism? ...in alignment with fear? ...in alignment with security? ...in alignment with pleasure and leisure? ...in alignment with _____?*

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.