

Are you ready for the End of the World?

by IJ Thomas, Bible Student/Teacher and Businessman

Dear Friend,

The recent times have shown increased interest in the news about the world coming to an end. Many fantastic theories have been put forward as to how the end will come. One movie even stated that the world will end by 2012. Whatever be the manner in which the end will come, one truth all theories agree about is this – the world and life, as we know it, will end. What these theories do not give is a logical, scientific and trustworthy way by which you can escape from this calamity.

What is the proof that the world is going to end?

The words of God recorded in the Holy Book - the Bible - are the most authentic record of the events leading to the end of the world. As a father, I warn my children to be away from fire. Why? Because I love them and wish to keep them away from danger. Similarly, the God who created you, loves you so much that He warns about the world's end; so that you can be prepared to escape from the horrible harm and danger that is about to be let loose. When God says the world will end, it will. That's proof enough. The Bible says "*God is not willing any should perish but that all come to repentance*". Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

How can you trust the Bible over other ideas that tell of the end of the world?

It's simple – the Bible has a track record of 100% correct predictions about the future. If 10 out of 10 of everything that the Bible predicted becomes a reality, then the rest of what it says is also going to happen. If even 9 of 10 things that a friend, guru, astrologer, holy book or religion says comes true and the other false prediction needs explanations on why it did not happen, then you can assume that despite good intentions, the source cannot be trusted completely.

No other source is proven to be as trustworthy as the Bible. For example, before the age of modern science, one culture believed that the Earth rested on the shoulders of a man; another said it rested on the head of an elephant. Only the Bible said that the earth was suspended in space. The Bible has always been 100% accurate, even when its predictions could not be believed by popular opinion. While almost every popular civilization of the past believed that the earth was flat, only the Bible said that it was a 'circle'.

God has recorded in the Bible many predictions years before the actual event happened. All these events were fulfilled in due time as the Bible predicted. Which is why, when the Bible says that the world is going to end it is wise to heed. Only the Bible gives a trustworthy and logical way by which we can escape the dangers that lead to the end. Like someone said, "It takes more faith NOT to believe in the Bible, than to believe in it!"

What do you mean by the 'End of the World'?

Speaking of the 'End of the World', the Bible mentions two types of ends.

- The first End deals with the 'End of the Government of Satan' when the 'Government of God Jesus' begins on Earth.
- The second refers to the 'End by Fire' – the complete destruction of the present sin-laden earth by fire so that it can be created anew.

Both these ends are controlled under the supervision of God Jesus Christ.

What do you mean by the Government of Satan?

Satan is an angel created by God. He started the first rebellion against God and influenced humans to join that rebellion. Satan rules by rebelling against God. So today, when humans do things contrary to the will of God, they are obeying the will of Satan, and consciously or unconsciously assist the Government of Satan. Through human beings, not under the control of Jesus, Satan rules families, relationships, economies, governments and even religions!

The Bible says that *all* (including 'saints', murderers, me and you) *have sinned and come short of the glory of God*. However good we think we may be, the truth is that we are sinners. Author Jordan Khan expresses our good

works well when he mentions, that putting a label that says 'Honey' on a bottle of poison does not change the contents of the bottle.

The same hand that points an accusing finger at corrupt politicians, governments or individuals, points three towards our own self. For proof, look around you to see the results of sin – immorality passed off as popular entertainment, violence, divorce, and more. Also, look within yourself to see the lust, pride, unholy thoughts, gossip, greed, rebellion against God and authorities. The Common Man is corrupt.

The Common Man is corrupt for he chooses to live by Self Will, which is contrary to the Will of God. Satan rules the world through humans who are against the Will of God. Because the Government of Satan is not based on Truth it eventually falls down. Just like a tree with rotting roots cannot stand for long; the world ends because it is corrupted. Dear friend, when the world ends, will you live or die?

What do you mean by the Government of Jesus?

At one point in time, God Jesus Christ will descend from Heaven to Earth with his angels and human beings who have chosen him to be their king. When He returns to earth, the first thing He will do is destroy the armies of darkness led by Satan. This will mark the end of the Government of Satan and the beginning of the Government of Jesus.

King Jesus will then set up His governmental capital in the city of Jerusalem, Israel, and begin a worldwide rule in which He will be the Supreme King. To carry out this worldwide administration, Jesus will have a Global Administrative Service that will be comprised of people who have accepted Him as King, before His coming to earth. These will be kings, reporting to the King of kings, Jesus.

Unlike today, this will be a time where every act of injustice will receive quick punishment and thus crime will be non-existent. This will be a time where every constructive act will be rewarded. This will be a time of bliss and prosperity. But to enter this period of the thousand year reign of Christ as a co-ruler with Jesus, you will have to escape the end of the world before that. Dear friend, are you ready to escape the end of the world?

What are the signs of the end of the world?

In the Biblical book of Matthew, the disciples of Jesus asked Him, "*When shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*" To this question, Jesus listed many signs that indicated the situation on the earth before His coming as King of all Earth. One significant sign is The Great Tribulation. This will mark the beginning of the end of the Government of Satan. Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

What is the Great Tribulation?

At a certain point in time there will begin Seven years of Tribulation, as was never experienced by the people of Earth. This is called the Great Tribulation.

Tribulation simply means great distress or trouble. Because of the intensity of this distress, Jesus called it '*the Great Tribulation*'. This will be a period of many wars, diseases and famine. In the Great Tribulation, one third of humanity will be destroyed. At today's world population of close to 7 billion, this works out to the entire population of India and China being dead! While the Great Tribulation will be focused mostly around the countries surrounding Israel or attacking Israel, its impact will be worldwide.

As I write, we are troubled by high prices. 'Dal' touched Rs. 100/kg, vegetables at Rs. 40/kg. Inflation is at a high. During the Great Tribulation things will be worse. The Bible says that prices of grain will be 8 times more than normal prices. Which means if the Great Tribulation happened today, wheat will cost Rs. 168 per kg!

What will be worse is that even at high prices the commodities will not be easily available. You may remember how the people of famine stricken Somalia and Ethiopia had tongues that were green because of the grass they ate like cows. What will you eat during the Great Tribulation? Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

What else will happen during the Great Tribulation?

The Bible says that there will be wars like never before. Think of the people who attacked Mumbai on 26/11 or New York on September 11. Just a few people caused destruction that takes years, and crores of money to recover. The Great Tribulation will see World War like never before.

Ask your grandparents or parents about the war that India had with Pakistan and China. There were blackouts which meant no electricity. Windows had to be painted black so that the enemy planes above could not see the houses below. Petrol was in short supply.

Dear friend, will you be fit to walk many kilometers with a pot of drinking water on your head? My friend, are you fit enough to turn the 'chakki' to grind that expensive wheat you bought to make 'rotis'? Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

Is that all?

Not at all! Jesus gave over 24 predictions that will happen during the Great Tribulation. Horrible diseases is one. One simple cold virus called H1N1 (mistakenly termed 'Swine Flu') brought the whole city of Pune to standstill for a month's time. Imagine that happening across nations of the world.

There will be earthquakes worse than the ones in Kutch or Latur. The Great Tribulation will bring earthquakes that no manmade 'earthquake proof' construction can handle. Dear friend, what will you do when your dream house/flat comes tumbling down with your life time savings? Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

Why should God allow the world to end?

Would you allow a mad dog to be your pet? No, because it's dangerous to you and the entire household. As an act of kindness, the doctor puts the mad dog to death for everyone's good. The end of the world is a result of Mankind leading it in a lifestyle of Sin. Mankind does this in partnership with the evil god of this world, Satan.

The wages of sin is death – for the individual and the Planet Earth. That is why you die. That is why the World should die. The reason God allows the world to end is so that He can end the path of Sin that Man and Satan have chosen for the Earth, thus fulfilling the laws of justice. God also uses the pain and suffering that accompanies the End of the World to save as many human beings from going to eternal destruction. The End of the World is a sign of God's love for the people in the world. Dear friend, are you ready for the end of the world?

When will the Great Tribulation begin?

Remember that the Great Tribulation is not the End of the World as we know it. It's the sign that the end of the world ruled by Satan's Government will happen in 7 years. The Great Tribulation will begin soon after a worldwide event called the Rapture.

Rapture? What's that?

Jesus told His disciples "*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also*". There is coming a time when Jesus will come again and receive every one of his disciples (both living and dead) and take them with Him to heaven where God the Father dwells. The taking away of the disciples of Jesus Christ secretly is called the rapture.

How will Jesus take His disciples from earth?

Referring to how the rapture will take place, God says, "*For the Lord (Jesus) Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord (Jesus) in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord*".

The Bible says that at one moment of time, the Lord Jesus will come for His disciples who are on the earth. Those who are dead will rise from their graves with a new and glorious physical body. Those who are alive will follow with a new and glorious physical body to meet Jesus in the clouds. This is the Rapture. Once this event happens, the Great Tribulation will begin on those left behind on earth. Dear friends, will you be raptured or will you be left behind?

Is there a way to escape from the Great Tribulation?

Like I said before, God loves you so much that He warns about the coming calamity so that you can trust His warnings by observing the signs that tell that His Word is true. God also provides a way to escape. That way is by coming under the rule of the True God and King - Jesus. There is only one Person who can protect Mankind from

the dangers of the Great Tribulation: He is Jesus. He is the only God, Prophet, Man and King to say *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man cometh to the Father (God) but by me"*.

The only way to escape the Great Tribulation is by coming under the rule of Jesus Christ as the King of your life. When you come under his loving rule, you will discover that you love God Jesus not just because He helps you escape death and the Great Tribulation, but because He alone is worthy of receiving your attention and worship. Becoming His disciple, qualifies you to be part of the Rapture before the Great Tribulation. Dear friend, if you wish, you can escape the Great Tribulation. Will you?

What of people who die before the end of the world?

Bodily death is certain for every human born on earth whether it comes through natural causes, accidents or in the events leading to the end of the world. Every human is in the grip of sin which is nothing but conscious disobedience to God. God's justice demands that you must be punished for your sins. *The wages of sin is death*. That is why you die. But God's love wishes that you live and not die forever. However the punishment of death had to be taken up by someone, who was qualified to take that punishment. Just like the blind cannot lead the blind, sinners cannot pay the price of another sinner. Which is why, God Himself became a human. His name was Jesus Christ, the only sinless human. Jesus died for your sins though He did no sin, so that you who were full of sin should escape the death penalty for your sins.

Jesus is the only human who has conclusively proven to defeat eternal death, and then allowed His disciples to enjoy the freedom from death. No one else enables ordinary humans this privilege. Because of Jesus, a door was opened for mankind to leave death and enter eternal life. The Bible says, *"If you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved"*.

If you choose not to believe in Jesus, your soul and spirit are not protected from eternal death and you go to hell the moment you die. However, when you exclusively believe on Jesus as your Saviour from death, your death is exchanged for His life. Eternal life begins in you instantly. Because Jesus defeated death, your faith in Him, enables you to defeat eternal death. Your body may die now. But your soul and spirit go to heaven to live eternally the moment you die. It is the truth; there is no Saviour from eternal death apart from Jesus. Why? Because apart from Jesus, there is no god or human without sin. That's what the Bible states: *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

What's more, at the rapture Jesus enables your soul and spirit to enter your dead body which is then resurrected to become a glorified ever-living body. No more will this body be attacked by diabetes, coughs, colds or cancer. This happens only for those who live eternally. Dear friend, where will you go once you die?

I am not a Christian. How can Jesus Christ become my God and King?

Jesus said, *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* Going by the words of Jesus Christ, many who claim to be Christians are not Christians at all! It is a lie that only those from a Christian background can come under the rule of God and King Jesus Christ. A Christian is someone who considers Jesus as God and King in his/her heart, and whose life, reflects that truth by his/her obedience to the words of Jesus as recorded in the Bible.

One does not become a Christian by having a Christian name, by being born in a Christian family or by going to a church building. These are not the qualifications to become a Christian. God does not show partiality based on someone's background or heritage. God respects Faith, Holiness, Truth and Justice. The Truth and Justice of God are satisfied when your sins are forgiven, as you come under the rule of Jesus Christ.

Anyone from any background can become a disciple of Christ, when such a person allows God Jesus Christ to be the King of their spirit, soul and body. Becoming a Christian is a conversion from a lifestyle that worships your own self to a lifestyle that worships the Only True God, Jesus Christ. The proof of this lifestyle is that you will love God with all your heart, soul and strength. The proof of this lifestyle is also that you will love your fellow human being (friend or enemy) as your own self. Only Jesus enables us to do this. That's when you become a disciple of Christ – a real Christian. (To find out if you are a true or fake Christian, write to thomas@jesustemple.org for a free booklet by Jordan Khan).

I know Jesus was a good person. But I also believe that He is one among many other gods. I have other beliefs about how the world will end. What now?

Like I said before, God loves you so much that He warns about the coming calamity so that you can trust His warnings by observing the signs that tell that His Word is true. God also provides a way to escape. That way is by coming under the rule of the True God and King - Jesus.

There is only one Person who can protect Mankind from the dangers of the Great Tribulation. He is Jesus. He is the only person – whether God, Prophet, Man or King to say *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man cometh to the Father (God) but by me"*. Anyone else who has made such a claim does not have proof to support that claim. Jesus is the only Person who has given proof to be fully God and fully Human (yet without sin). Who else has given such proof?

Jesus is the only God who honours your free will. He does not force anyone to become His disciples. If a man warns you that the bridge on the road ahead is broken down, it's your choice to stop or to go ahead. If you stop, you are saved. If you go ahead, you're hurt. It's your choice and no one else can be blamed. The decisions you make now will determine the outcome of your life.

You are free to choose to believe as you wish. But as someone who cares, I would request you to consider whether your beliefs are founded on the basis of truth and proven logic? Or are they founded on myths and fables? Ask your conscience what the Truth is? Jesus Christ? Or someone else? The Truth will make you free. The Truth will establish logic. Lies will hide behind arguments and quarrels. Dear friend, are you sure what you believe will help you escape sin, calamity and death?

What of those who are not disciples of Jesus Christ? What will happen to them?

The sequence of events that lead to the End of the World is: The Rapture > The rise of the Anti-Christ, a Jesus-Hating, World Leader > The Seven-Year Great Tribulation > The Punishment of the Anti-Christ and Satan to Hell and the End of the Great Tribulation at the Coming of Jesus Christ as the King of All Earth > The 1000 year rule of the disciples of Jesus as kings and Jesus as the overall King of kings > The Final Battle between the forces of Jesus and Satan on his brief release > Satan's Defeat and destruction in the Lake of Fire (with all those who do not wish to be ruled by Jesus) > The End of Hell and Death > Creation of a New Earth and New Heaven without Sin. You will realize that I have condensed in one sentence, much of the human future. The Bible records the place where Jesus will come from, the precise location of His capital city and how his manner of rule will be.

Like today, people will always have the opportunity to accept the Lordship of Jesus even during and after the Great Tribulation. Like now, people will still rebel and hate Jesus. But, waiting to accept Jesus as King after the Rapture and Great Tribulation is a highly risky option. It's like waiting to find out if the rumbling earthquake will touch my building or not; or if the lit bomb will explode or not. Because if you die in your sins before these events happen you will be forever condemned to Eternal Death with the god you chose to serve – Satan. Dear friend, what stops you from accepting Jesus as your God and King?

What should I do to be ready for the End of the World?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved". Jesus Christ is the answer if you wish to escape the calamities of Eternal Death and the End of the World. Jesus is the only God and the only Human without Sin. That is why He could defeat Sin and Death and make a way for you to escape Sin and Death. He paid the punishment for your Sins when He died on the cross. Jesus is the only God and the First Human to permanently defeat Death and Satan, when He resurrected from His grave to live eternally. He is coming back to rule the Earth.

By faith, when you believe that Jesus was punished for your Sin, you receive the pardon of Sin from God the Father. Just like a loving brother, who pays a Court of Justice a fine of Rs. 10 lakh for a brother who committed a crime and does not have the money to pay off the punishment, Jesus died to take the punishment of your Sin.

When you believe in Jesus as your King from your heart, you are saved from the punishment of your Sin. When you believe in Jesus as the Lord of your life, you are resurrected (raised to new life) with Him through faith and thus you are free from the power of Sin, Death and Satan. You are born again into a new life, when Jesus becomes King of your life. Before the End of the World, Jesus will come and take you from Earth to spare you of the Great Tribulation. And after the Great Tribulation, he brings you back to Earth to reign with Him as a king.

Your love for God, your godly love for your neighbor, your righteousness, your peace and your joy will be proof of the truth that Jesus is King of your heart. Jesus gives you a choice to escape from calamity or be destroyed with it. You have before you life, or death. Choose life. Dear friend, Jesus is the only secure way to be ready for the End of the World!

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as your God and King, and would like to grow in your relationship with Him, contact the Jesus Temple (**www.jesustemple.org**), a group of home and family based Christians who love God and humanity.

Comments and questions will be gladly responded to in a spirit of basic human dignity and Godly love. If you would like to know more about the End of the World, and specific predictions that will happen before the return of Jesus contact the author at +91-9723473377 or **thomas@jesustemple.org**

Sentences in italics are verses from the King James Bible.

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