

BibleTalk Radio



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Christ for the Philippines Mission

End Times Bible Study Part 13

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We have been discussing the end times, that is, the times of the end, the end of this age, the end of this world according to what the Lord Jesus Christ has told us. We spent many weeks looking at Matthew Chapter 24 because Jesus Christ is the one speaking in Matthew Chapter 24 and He had a lot to say about those days. We now have gone into other parts of the New Testament to corroborate and to put together the Scriptures.

Remember, dear listener, I've said this before; the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible itself, comparing Scripture with Scripture. We do not build a doctrine on one passage of Scripture, one verse of Scripture. As a tapestry, as a basket that is woven together from many different threads, the Bible doctrines are woven together all in and throughout the whole Bible, including the Old Testament, and so we're going to be jumping around the Bible a little bit today. Hopefully, you'll be able to keep up with us as we continue this study on the end times.

Last week I touched a little bit on I and II Thessalonians in the Bible. If you would, dear listener, please turn in your Bible to I Thessalonians Chapter 5. If you don't have a Bible, I encourage you to text us here at 0999-862-7223 and request a Bible of your very own, and that way we can get one out to you.

If you have your Bible, please open to the book of I Thessalonians. That's in the New Testament. We're going to Chapter 5 and verse 1. The apostle Paul here is addressing some people in a place called Thessalonica. The people that he is addressing is a specific local church there, the church at Thessalonica. That's why this book is called Thessalonians because it's named after the people of Thessalonica. This is the first letter that Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, and so it's called I Thessalonians.

In Chapter 5, verse 1, he's addressing the issue of the rapture. In fact, I want to back up to Chapter 4. We actually started this entire study with I Thessalonians Chapter 4. We began at verse 13, so just as a refresher, let's back up a little bit to I Thessalonians Chapter 4, beginning in verse 13. The apostle Paul here writes, *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

So he's saying, "Listen, if you're a Christian, when a Christian dies, don't be so sorry like those who have no hope." We have the hope that we will be in Heaven, and those that died, their body is just in the grave. They're asleep but their spirit is with the Lord. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. So



we will see each other again, so don't be so sorrowful like those who have no hope that you don't know if they're in Heaven or not.

And there's only two places according to the Bible. Our authority is the Bible. There's no church, there's no church tradition, there's no organization, there's no man, there's no person who holds equal authority to the Bible. Everybody and everything is inferior to the Word of God. So the Bible very clearly teaches Heaven or Hell. There's no in-between and there's no outside. There's just those two places.

So Paul here in verse 13 is saying, if you're a Christian and you just had to bury a fellow Christian, mama, papa, whatever, but they're also a Christian who trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and had the testimony, don't be so sorrowful. Sure, we'll miss them. Sure, we'll cry. But don't be sorrowful as if we'll never see them again because we will see them again in Heaven. He says don't be like them which have no hope, "no hope" meaning when they die, that's it; they're going to Hell. If you're a Christian, you'll never see that person again. If you're not a Christian, you will also never see that person again because you will have your own place where you'll be burning in Hell. And so he says don't be so sorrowful.

It continues in verse 14: *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* Now he's going into the future events here. He's going into something that we call the rapture which is what we're talking about in this study now. ¹⁵*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord...* See, by the Word of the Lord, not by some man, not by some organization, not by some tradition, but by the Word of God... *that we which are alive and*

remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [or go before] them which are asleep.

And so here's what's going to happen. ¹⁶*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven...* Think about that for a moment. According to the Bible, the Word of God – and so many people ignore this – it's the Lord Jesus Himself who is coming back. He's not going to send an angel. He's not going to send a spaceship. He's not going to send a sea ship. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is going to leave Heaven and come to the Earth. It says, ¹⁶*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God...* so there'll be a trumpet. I've been noticing a lot of videos on YouTube lately that there are the sounds of trumpets being heard all over the world. There are quite a few out there.

If you do a search on YouTube for trumpet sounds heard all over the world, it's very interesting. Some of them are hoaxes, obviously, but there are some that seem to be pretty interesting and they're all over the world and the people are taking their cellphones and pointing them into the sky and they're hearing these weird sounds coming from the sky. Sometimes they sound like trumpets. Other times they sound like machinery in the distance or something like that, but a lot of places in the world are reporting that now. How interesting.

It says, *with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first...* meaning those who have been buried, their spirits will be reunited with their bodies, those bodies will come out of the grave, but they'll be glorified. ¹⁷*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the*



clouds... That's called the rapture. That's where we're taken up by force, because we'll be pulled out of here.

This is a bad, bad place that we're in, this world now. It's not pretty and it's not getting any better. I don't care how much the UN talks about world peace and how many presidents sit down and sign treaties for world peace and world peace this and world peace that. It's not getting any better. It's getting worse. And the Lord said it would be. So we're going to be removed from here. It says we'll be *caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...* So we'll meet the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, finally, in the air... *and so* [or like that] *shall we ever be with the Lord*. From that point forward, we will always be with Jesus, amen.

So he says in verse 13, don't be sorrowful, *Sorrow not, even as others which have no hope*. He tells us about all these things that are going to happen, and in verse 18, he says, *Wherefore*[or because of this] *comfort one another with these words*. For a Christian, if the end of the world was a scary thing, then how can we be comforted? But because we are Christians, because we are saved, we are born again, we know that we're going to Heaven when we die, the end of the world is not a scary thing to us. It's a comfort thing to us.

So that's why in Chapter 5, which is where I wanted to take us originally, he says, ¹*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.* ²*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night*. He says remember what the Lord Jesus said. He said, "I come as a thief." He said no one knows the date or the hour; just be ready.

Well, how are you ready for the Lord's coming? You have to be saved. Are you saved? Do you know for sure if you're going to Heaven? If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you're going to Heaven, or are you only 90% sure you're going to Heaven? Or 70% sure you're going to Heaven? If you're only 50%, 75%, 80% sure you're going to Heaven, dear listener, you're in big trouble, because a child of God who is born again, who is truly saved, they know that they're going to Heaven 100%. The Bible says so. I'm not telling you this because Pastor Antonio says so.

The Bible says in I John 5:13, "These things...." Look at all the things that we're studying. Let me tell you where we're going to be tonight. Matthew Chapter 24, I Thessalonians Chapter 4, I Thessalonians Chapter 5, II Thessalonians Chapter 2, II Peter Chapter 3, and there are other places we're going to go. *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have...* That means the present tense. You have it right now... *eternal life*.

Yes, if you're saved, you can know 100% sure. If you don't know 100% sure, you need to check if you have salvation. Maybe you only have religion. And, dear listener, my friends, religion will not save you. Good works will not save you. Rituals, ceremonies, and sacraments will not save you. If you did good works for a thousand years and you did good works and you lived like Mother Teresa and you never did anything but good works, you cannot be saved because the Bible says, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*. The Bible says, *There is none righteous: no, not one*. The Bible says, *For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of*



God... the gift... is eternal life... That's Heaven... through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[Ms. Ypille:] I was thinking, could you explain in the Bible some verses about having assurance of salvation.

There are many times in the Bible where we can find security of our salvation, assurance, if you will. The verse I just quoted is one of them, I John 5:13. *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life.*

By the way, Jesus Himself said, too, *All that come to me I will in no wise cast out.* But one of the best verses that I love to give is I Peter 1:5-6 because he talks about being kept by the power of God. That means that after we're saved, after we trust Jesus Christ... and it has to be only Christ... but after we trust in Christ, we do not have to keep that salvation by maintaining good works or avoiding terrible sins. The Lord keeps us by His own power and righteousness. Then He says that there is a place in Heaven reserved for us. He is not going to reserve something for somebody who might not come.

[Ms. Ypille:] So, Pastor, what would you say if a person was saved but whoever witnessed to this person did not follow up with assuring salvation?

When we deal with people, I'm sure there have been several times where we were also remiss in helping that person with assurance of their salvation simply because of the situation. You and I, for example, do a lot of soul-winning, a lot of witnessing out in the streets and in people's homes, and sometimes their phone is ringing, their neighbors come over, their kids

are crying and screaming, or something's going on where they can receive the Lord Jesus Christ and then we have to cut the conversation abruptly because something comes up and we have to leave or they have to leave or something. So we don't get the opportunity to follow up with speaking to them about the assurance of their salvation, as well as baptism, which is very important after salvation. But that does happen. One of the important things is also to help them with assurance of their salvation.

Again, in the Bible, there are many places, even in the Old Testament, King David committed a very grave sin in that he committed adultery with a woman that was not his wife. Not only was she not his wife, King David actually had the man killed whose wife that was. So he committed adultery and then murder to try to cover it up. Yet, later on, the baby that he had from this adulterous relationship died. David made a statement and he encouraged himself in the Lord that he was going to go to Heaven. In other words, David knew and he had the assurance that, even though he had committed a sin, he was going to Heaven.

In the New Testament, we can take that to I Corinthians 5:1-5. There's a story there about a man who was committing a terrible sin. He was having an adulterous relationship with the wife of his father, his stepmother, and he was apparently living in adultery with this woman. Paul says that this man should be put away or excommunicated from the church where he was a member, the Corinthian church because it was written to the Corinthians. Then he says, "for the destruction of the flesh," in other words, that God would judge him, that God would take away God's own protection from this man and allow him to be consumed by the destruction of his own deeds. But something



very interesting he says at the end of that. He says for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit might be saved in that day, indicating that, though this man had committed such a terrible sin, he was still saved. The story has a good ending because when we read the book of II Corinthians we see that that man actually repented and came back.

The Scripture is very clear that Jesus Christ forgives us when we trust on Him. When we receive Him as Savior, when we trust the fact that He died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. He rose again from the dead. He lived today. Jesus Christ lives. So because He lives, we live.

People say, "Well, what if I receive Jesus Christ today and then next week I commit a very bad sin?" One of the things that many people miss is that all of your sins were future to Jesus Christ because He died on that cross 2,000 years ago. So, yes, it's amazing, but when you receive Jesus Christ at a certain point in time, your salvation becomes eternal both ways. So all of your sins are forgiven past; all of your sins are forgiven present; and all of your sins are forgiven future so the sin that you're going to commit one week from now or one year from now is already forgiven. It is under the same blood that today's and yesterday's sins are under. That's the wonderful thing about salvation.

Many in some religions who don't understand the Bible and people who don't understand the Bible will make an accusation and say, "Well, if that's true, then I have a license to sin. If I receive Jesus Christ and all of my sins are forgiven, even the ones I'm going to commit next month or next year, that means I can do

whatever I want and still go to Heaven." The technical answer to that question is, yes, that's technically correct. You can commit a very grave sin next year, maybe even worse than anything you committed before you were saved, and still be saved and go to Heaven. So, technically, that's correct.

But in actuality and practicality, you cannot because you have the new birth. You have now as a born-again child, if you're truly saved, you have the Holy Spirit in you and it is simply not possible. I've never seen it. It has never been possible for a child of God to continue living like a wild... you know, the same sins as before. They cannot because inside of them they have the Holy Spirit that is pricking at their hearts and they will have a reduction in sin. They won't have an elimination of it because we're still living in this sinful body and this sinful world, but there will certainly be a marked decrease. And there will be some sins that simply will not happen again. But nobody has a license to sin.

[Ms. Ypille:] In other words, Pastor, if you are truly saved, you don't really plan, like premeditate something grave?

We have a term that we use called backsliding. It's actually somewhat inappropriate because it applies to Israel in the Old Testament, but we use it today in the New Testament context, and kind of colloquially, where a child of God who is saved can, of course, fall into certain temptations and can get into some sin and some of that sin be premeditated. But they would not feel the same about that sin as they did before they were saved.

When a person has religion, they are basically a person who sins, a sinner, who tries to cover up



their sin or misdeeds, or should I say they try to balance their misdeeds with some good deeds, some religious deeds, giving money to a church or helping the poor or saying a certain prayer 20 times and lighting candles and things like that, whipping themselves, whatever they do. And then they feel fine and they can go back and commit those sins again and they feel a little bit guilty about it, not too, too guilty, but kind of guilty about it. But then they can go back to their religion and commit some religious acts and then feel as if they're justified and they've balanced themselves out and then they can go back.

A child of God can't do that. A child of God, if they get into sin and they stay in sin, will become such a miserable person. I have seen Christians, truly born-again Christians who have gotten away from God and who have gotten into sin and I have seen them. Those people are more miserable than any unsaved person I have ever seen in my life.

In fact, I myself have experienced misery like that for times in my life since I've been saved where I've gotten into sin and I've gotten away from the Lord. I can assure you that I may have been able to get into sin for a few weeks or a few months, maybe even a year or two, but I can assure you that, every moment, it just gets worse. The internal misery just gets worse until I finally get to a point where I fall on my knees on my face and ask God to forgive me for how backslidden, how unfaithful I've been. And then I've been able to restore a relationship with God, trusting only in His forgiveness.

Of course, the Lord is beautiful, and He is always welcoming us back. Does He punish sin? Yes. Does He chastise us and correct us and discipline us? Yes. But when we fully turn

back to Him and ask Him to truly forgive us and we want nothing to do with sin again, does He forgive us? Yes, absolutely. It's not something that can be taken advantage of for the simple reason that nobody can fool God, so we can't turn to God as in the way the religious people do. Turn back to God and say, "Oh, God, forgive me. Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come..." and pray that ten times and then think that we're okay. No, God is not mocked. *For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

So in other words, a truly born-again child of God can get into sin. That sin is already forgiven, but the act of it after having been born again still brings misery to the life of the child, and a child of God is quick, typically, to repent of that and go away. One of the verses we use in that application is I John 1:9, which states, *If we confess our sins [to God], He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

In my daily life, for example, as a Christian, today, Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 7:33 in the evening, how many sins have I committed today? I'm not even sure, but I know I have. When I say I'm not sure, I'm sure that I've committed sins; I'm just not sure how many. But today before I go to bed I need to fall on my face before God and say, "Lord, I have sinned against You." I'm saved. I'm going to Heaven, but how many people have you and I met today? Did we give every single person a Gospel tract today? Did we witness to every person? No, so we were disobedient to God's commandment to go therefore and teach all nations, preach the Gospel to every creature. So I know for sure I've been disobedient on that one.



Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to lead every single step of the way? Have we had kind words to every single person that we've met together, including each other, you and I? No, no, no, down the line. So there are many places where I have failed and it has been sin, and to God, sin is sin just as much as stealing, committing adultery. Sin is sin. We as born-again children of God – tonight I have to fall on my face and ask God to forgive me and cleanse me and give me a new day tomorrow. Tomorrow morning when I wake up, the first thought in my mind has to be God. “Lord, today's a new day. Please keep me from sin. Lord, please help me to live for You. Forgive me again for those sins that I committed yesterday.”

There's no sin that's going to keep me out of Heaven. We still sin, but that's where the wonderful and matchless grace of Jesus Christ is in His forgiveness. He has forgiven us, but I don't want to allow the sins that I've committed today to pile up. Whether you consider them big or small, they're still sins, and I don't want to allow those to pile up until tomorrow and then the day after and the day after and the next week. Before you know it, my spiritual life is suffering and bogged down because I have allowed sin to continue unrepented of. Although my sins are forgiven, if I died today, tomorrow, or next week, I'm going to Heaven. But I want to have a close relationship with God today, right now. Sin will hinder that. That's the number one thing that sin will do.

[Ms. Ypille:] And peace of mind.

So as a child of God I can confidently say that I can sin. Later tonight at eight o'clock when we get off the air, I can commit some kind of sin, but I'll still go to Heaven. However, that sin will grieve the Holy Spirit in me. It will grieve my

own heart, and before my head hits the pillow tonight, I'm already asking God to forgive me of those sins. Even though my sins are already under the blood, they're washed, but being in this world, I want to ask God to cleanse my life of things that do not honor Him so that my relationship with Him, my relationship with my wife, is not hindered.

[Ms. Ypille:] You have to clear things up and have open communication always.

Let me give you a very good example. Our marriage, we're married. We're not divorced. We're not going to get divorced. Our contract is between you, me, and God. You and I don't always get along. We sin against each other because we have disagreements. Sometimes we have arguments and sometimes one of us will walk away and close the door of our bedroom and that's rude. Closing a door in your face or something like that because I'm tired of hearing the argument. One of us will do that to the other. Our relationship suffers, but we're still married. If I get angry with you about something and yell at you and maybe call you a name and I walk away, that doesn't automatically become a divorce. Of course not, but our relationship suffers.

The same thing with God. When we commit a sin against God, our relationship suffers but we don't lose our salvation; we don't lose our adoption as children of God. That's the best example I can think of right now. And we can use the example of children or siblings, anything. They can sin against you but they're still your blood relative. There's nothing that can be done to change that. So it's the same thing with God. By the grace of God, our sins are forgiven and we can go forward with that.



We were discussing the rapture here out of I Thessalonians Chapter 5 and we saw that the apostle Paul was saying here, ¹*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.* And the reason he says this is because he had taught about it before and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ from Matthew 24 and other places were around. He does say a little bit here and in verse 2, he says, *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.* ³*For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

That's a strange statement. Why of all times when they're saying peace and safety? What is this all about? People are finally experiencing peace and safety. Isn't that what we're looking for? But God says, when we say peace and safety, that's when the end's going to come. That seems kind of mean.

No, dear listener, the world right now is in one of the worst ways that it's ever been. There's stuff going on all over the world right now. If your only news source is ABS, CBN, or you're only reading the *Inquirer* or you're only reading some of the stuff here in the Philippines, or if you peradventure have a subscription to CNN or BBC, Yahoo News, those mainstream media, even Fox News, those mainstream media, did you know – Now I'm going to tell you this. I don't know what the statistic is here in the Philippines, but seeing as how the Philippines follows just about everything that America does, did you know that 96% of all media in the United States, I'm talking about CNN, I'm talking about Headline News, Fox News, MSNBC, you name it, newspapers, *New York Post*, *Los Angeles*

Times, *New York Times*. Did you know that 96% of all media, radio... You've got Clear Channel Networks; you've got Westwood One; I don't even remember the names of them, but TV, radio, and newspapers, 96% of them in the United States are owned by six corporations, including Clear Channel. Clear Channel owns hundreds of radio stations all over the country.

Zondervan, which is a massive book publisher, and I forgot which newspapers but there's a whole network of newspapers across the country. Fox News, those are all owned by the same company. I forgot the name of the company but it's Rupert Murdoch, but there's a name to his company besides Murdoch, an umbrella company that owns all those that I just named.

Now, CNN and I forgot which radio stations are affiliated with them and which newspapers but there are hundreds owned by Ted Turner.

[Ms. Ypille:] Yes, Warner and Turner, but I think they all have been bought by Sony already, or something.

But 96% of all media in the United States is owned by six corporations. That means the other 4% are owned by little mom-and-pops and smaller companies like that. That's a huge statistic. I don't know if that's gone up or down in the last... because there have been some mergers and stuff in the last few months or the last year, but you can Google that. That's not a secret.

Here in the Philippines, I'm assuming it's very much the same thing. Being on the radio, of course, here, we have Century Broadcasting and there are some other stations out there that are networked all over the country. I know



here in the Philippines, it's very difficult to get a radio station because you have to have a franchise from Congress, so I don't know. I haven't done the research here, but I'm assuming only because we travel – here, Cebu, Manila, Mindanao, Davao City, Surigao, Samar. We've been to Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Samar, of course, Northern Leyte, Southern Leyte, Cebu Province from top to bottom. We've been all through Luzon all the way up to Metro Manila, so we, of course, listen to the state radio stations and stuff and most of the stations are Majik or Love something. I forgot. All the names of the other stations out there, I'm not advertising any of them.

She's telling me to shush because we're on Century Broadcasting, but I'm just saying there are, in all of the provinces in all the cities in the Philippines, I only ever hear about four or five names, so I'm assuming that in the Philippines most of the mainstream media is owned by a few individuals or corporations, as well.

I subscribe to a lot of what's called alternative news, the smaller operations, the people who are living in certain parts of the world and are blogging and trying to get news out. We're living in a world today that is very dangerous. There are problems and wars and fights and things flaring up all over the place while places like the UN and their cronies are saying peace and safety. "Oh, we're about to embark on a new age. We're about to have this kind of treaty or that kind of cooperative or this, that, and the other. Peace and safety. We're finally going to have peace and safety."

Antiterrorism and everything is in the name of peace and safety. Meanwhile, more of our rights are being taken away under the guise of peace and safety. And by the way, the Bible

word for safety can also be translated "security."

Now, I need to tell you, do a YouTube search, dear listener. Go to YouTube and do a search for all videos containing the phrase "peace and safety" or "peace and security." It'll blow your mind how many times that phrase is repeated all over the world by different leaders and politicians. Yet, today, the world is just on the brink of blowing up. That's why in the Bible here in verse 3 he says, when they say peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall come, because what it is, the world is trying to cover up its cancer. The world is very sick right now, but everybody's singing peace and safety.

One of the things that was interesting with the sinking of the *Titanic*... most people here have probably heard of the *Titanic*. It was very famous. There was a big movie made out of it based on a true story. It was the largest ship every constructed in 1912 and it sank on its maiden voyage. It struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and it sank in a couple of hours. Massive, massive ship back then, 800 feet long. I mean, we're talking about 1912 and it was almost as long as a super aircraft carrier is today. A Nimitz-class carrier is 1,091 feet long, so this is just barely 300 feet shorter than that.

While the ship was sinking, there were quartets of violinists and stuff playing on the deck there to calm the masses down. "So everybody, just calm down. It's not that big of a deal. Yeah, this ship can't sink. It's taking on water but the ship can't sink." So very few people actually got into their lifeboats and there were, I don't remember exactly how many people, but there were a couple thousand people that died that night because that ship sank. It broke in half and sank. The porters, the officers on the ship,



most of them, the staff on the ship and these quartet players were all saying, “It’s okay. Peace and safety. We’re okay.”

Here the ship is already listing. It’s already at a 10- or 12-degree list and a 10- or 12-, even 15-degree pitch with its bow, the front end of the ship, already under water and they’re playing their little violins. “Oh, it’s okay. The ship can’t sink. Peace and safety. We’ll just send a flare up and some other ships will come and help us but we’ll be okay.” Meanwhile, the ship is sinking.

Most people would believe that. Most of the survivors from the *Titanic* were women and children because, of course, back in those days, men were very gentlemanly. Part of the reason from the testimonies from people out there is most of the men stayed on the ship because they didn’t think it was going to sink.

[Ms. Ypille:] Or that they gave way to the boats because wasn’t it that some of the boats were decreased?

Some of those boats were launched with nobody on them. So, anyway, what I’m saying is that it’s the same situation today. This world is sinking. It’s about to burn up. If you watch the media, they’re all saying peace and safety, peace and security, meanwhile, sticking their heads in the ground, but there are things that are happening across the world. There’s terrorist attacks.

Even here in the Philippines there were a couple of bombs that were blown up in Mindanao in the last couple of weeks. Abu Sayyaf was all the way up in Bohol a couple of weeks ago. So peace and safety, my hind leg. There’s no peace and safety. But that’s what the people are saying. So this is what the Bible is

referring to. People are going to be in a state of, “Oh, everything is okay. Peace and safety.”

It’s interesting that he’s making a reference to something that happened way back in the book of Genesis. Why do I say that? Well, because in Matthew Chapter 24, if you turn with me and if you remember because that’s where we were for several weeks, Jesus Christ Himself said in Matthew 24:36, *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my father only.* ³⁷*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* The Son of man, capital “S” on “Son,” was another name Jesus used of Himself. He is the Son of God, but remember, He came incarnate, so he always refers to Himself as the Son of man. He’s saying that like that Son of man because He’s coming back in His body.

What were the days of Noah like? See, that’s what Jesus is referring to. Look at it. Jesus Himself said it in Matthew 24:37. *But as the days of Noe were...* “Noe” in the New Testament is the Old Testament name “Noah.” As those days were, like this... *so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Well, how were the days of Noah? He gives us a description in verse 38: *For as in the days that were before the flood...* That’s what Noah is known for, the ark and the flood... *they were eating and drinking...* in other words, partying on... *marrying and giving in marriage...* having a good time, partying, marriages, all this party time, partying and going on with everything, and worry about yourself and your pretty dresses and your pretty parties and your pretty time, he says... *until the day that Noe entered into the ark.*



In other words, Noah was a preacher of righteousness and he preached and preached and preached and preached, and finally, the day came when he went into the ark and those people were still out there laughing at him, just like they laugh at us when we preach in the streets. And they say, “They’re just crazy, fanatic. Oh, he’s preaching. Oh, my goodness, party pooper.”

Verse 39, He said: *And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also... like that... the coming of the Son of man be.*

Now what’s really interesting is I’m going to take you back to the book of Genesis next week, Genesis Chapter 6. Read it, dear listener. That’s my assignment for you this week. Read Genesis Chapters 6 and 7, just two chapters. It’s all about Noah and how the description of those days and then compare that to what Jesus said in Matthew 24:36-39. Compare that to I Thessalonians 5:3.

Dear listener, I’m teaching you how to weave together. That’s three different Scripture references, Genesis 6 and 7, Matthew 24:36-39, I Thessalonians 5:1-3. You’re weaving together a doctrine. You’re weaving together a description from the Bible about what the days are going to be like just before Jesus returns.

You read those things, that assignment that I’m giving you, and maybe I’ll post it on our Facebook page, too, to remind you. You read that and then you go find out about the news. Don’t go to ABS, CBN. See if you can find an Internet connection and go just research some news. Type in searches for “news Syria,” “news Iran,” “news North Korea,” “news Russia.” Start reading some articles and compare that to what the Bible says and see if it’s not happening exactly the way God said it would happen. You might get scared, but if you’re saved and you’re born again, you won’t be too scared.

Praise the Lord.