

## *The controversy: The end of time?*

### **Controversy?**

In Christian circles there is an argument (go figure) over end times. When is the tribulation (bad days) period, and when will judgment day happen? Some believe it happened during the first century. This is called post-millennial. Pre-millennial thinks judgement day will happen soon and then the end will come. Some believe various other things. In all religions there is a day of reckoning. Why? The controversy is that nobody believes the exact same thing but they all agree something will happen.

Jesus says “In that day” there will be signs. He said child bearing will be a bad thing. Even Jesus did not know the day or the hour: only God the Father does. People will disappear and rise from the dead. Families will be split and become against each other. Those days will be bad for those who are still here. In Daniel there are descriptions of monsters and angels. The same can be found in Revelation. What do the descriptions really mean?

Why not just get to the good stuff? Why must society and God play this out? If the Bible tells the “End” story then why play the game if we already know who wins? These are good questions that we wrestle with. What is God doing with our time? Are animals going to heaven? It seems there will be no oceans on the new earth. Where are the fish then? Who rises from the dead and when will this take place. There are so many questions and so many answers from so many people. It’s easy to understand why people tell religion to take a flying leap. What do you believe?

### **Maybe?**

Is there an end of time? For all things we have a beginning and an end. I love scientists (they) telling us it all started with the Big Bang Theory (not Sheldon). They say time started

there because they don't know what was before that. Trees grow and fall; people grow and die; and seasons come and go. Everything seems to begin and end, but do we Biblically have an end? The Bible says in Genesis 1 **"In the beginning."** Daniel 8:17 **"As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "Understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."** The Bible talks about beginnings and endings.

Jesus in the book of Mark calls someone the Son of man. Jesus talks about that man dying and rising again in the last days. Jesus died and rose again, but is he the son of man? The interesting part of all this is "The last days." Those on one side say yes we will have last days, and Jesus will return just like the Bible says. Other people say no, we will just die out one day like the dinosaurs did. Who is right? It's been over 2000 years since Jesus died. That is a long time to say you will return. Why the wait? The answer might be that, in the Bible, sin has to come unto fullness. That looks like these times doesn't it?

Revelation is a book at the end of the Bible. Many arguments and churches have begun because of difference of opinions on this book. Rev 1:8 says **"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."** At the end of this book Jesus says in Rev 22:13 **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."** Maybe the Bible is right but maybe it's wrong too. What do you believe?

### **Yes?**

What drives the Muslim? Is it their reward in paradise or standing up for Allah on earth? What drives a Christian? Is it the thought of going to heaven or is it serving God on earth? In Rev 21:4 it says **"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or**

**mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."** Is that why we want to go to heaven? Paul says in his books that we are to run this race of life. There is a prize at the end. There is that word again "End." We only know for sure in the end that we will have death and taxes.

People are smart to some degree. We can see an end to our lives on earth. Jesus offering eternal life in John 3:16 might change the game. What if the end does not need to end? God tells us in the Old Bible books and the new (which is old too) that there is an end. The Jewish people have always believed in a reunion with God. They wanted their bones buried in the promise land. They believed in resurrection in the end of times. Jesus spoke about the end of days. The Bible seems to point to an end and a new beginning.

Why do non-Christians say they are good enough to go to heaven. A good God would let us in. I believe that deep down inside we truly believe in something more than time on this earth. Wars have been fought over who is right about the afterlife. There are arguments over what heaven looks like and where it is. The Russians in space years ago declared heaven was not out there. Why did they care to look if they don't believe? Every culture has a thought on the end of times. Yes it appears it is built into our DNA to think so.

## **No?**

There is an argument that says all the Bible prophecy on the end times falls into two categories. One is that it is all utter nonsense. Much of these prophecies seem to have been written after the events occurred. Why are some prophecies done while others not yet. They are

not written in order either. Nostradamus was a man who in the 1500's made some bold prophecies. Some came true while others did not. The same could be said of some psychics, mediums, and spiritualists in our day. Many people don't believe in that stuff.

The other side is when. Did this happen before the prediction or after? Why hasn't this prediction happened yet? Some people argue that the end times already happened years ago right after Jesus died. They believe the Roman culture fits many prophesy's. They argue the prophecies are designed to work within that time period. Some people take the prophecy and put it into another certain time period that it fits. The interpretation of end times is ridiculous. We don't know why, when, and to whom they are written. We have very little data beyond speculation.

In the Bible, Daniel and revelation are the main points of end time's talk. Daniel 7 and Revelation are the big ones. There are others but these are hot chapters. In history we have arguments on who wrote some books. Did Shakespeare write Shakespeare? Who wrote Genesis? We have the argument who wrote Revelation? It's hard to just believe these days. What we don't see bothers us most of the time. We usually find out we really don't know anything about anything. It might be easy to say no there are no end times: just the time that each of us has. Do you believe that?