

## What's Going On?

Pastor Ken

April 19, 2026

*<sup>30</sup> Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

Two pastors are talking about the end of the world. One pastor says to the other, "I predict the end of the world will come in 217,000 years." This really agitated and upset his pastoral friend, so he asked, "how many years until the end?" The pastor said, "217,000."

His friend said with a big sigh, "You scared me for a second, I thought you said, 117,000."

"Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts, was written in 1719 to celebrate the return of Jesus and His rule on the earth.

Matt 24 is about final 7 years of human history (Tribulation), and it is not about God's retaliation, temper-tantrum or God getting even with fallen mankind.

In Matt 24, we come to the final 7 years of human history when God says, "You've wanted a world free of God's interference, here you go! You are on your own against whatever other beings want the same. All these beings are found in the book of Revelation: A dragon. A Beast. Antichrist and a False prophet. Have at it! Go for it.

The release of the 7 final years of Tribulation justice is not God throwing a temper tantum in heaven and earth leaving humanity to experience the vibrations that rattle our cages.

Mankind's final 7 years is God driving out the demonic cultural system and antichrist spirit through a **Tribulation EXOCISM** that has placed a curse on humanity through sin.

In doing so the scales of cosmic justice are being balanced for all-eternity against the devil and all rebellious human activity. Let me remind you how fast global hysteria can overcome mankind. And the worst is still to come. Two events in the last 30 years have produced the beginning of **end time birth pain hysteria**:

### Y2K

In 1999, everyone was anticipating the arrival of the new millennium. January 1, 2000, was the day that our entire lives were going to be changed. The fear was that all the computers that everyone depended on would malfunction.

People also feared that our advanced life of technology would be destroyed and that we would **revert back to living like the olden days without any electricity, heat or running water**. They called this the great Y2K scare. How many remember that Apocalyptic experience?

The scare consisted of the fear that the entire computer systems were going to fail on New Year's Eve 1999 at 11:59pm. In other words, people saw the new millennium as the apocalypse. They feared that the end of the world was near. Anybody remember that Apocalyptic scare?

### **2012 Mayan Calendar Scare**

This ancient Mesoamerican civilization is shrouded in mystery. Their history originates about 2000 years ago. This civilization was located in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and extended to modern Guatemala and Honduras.

The Mayan city of Tikal had a population of 50,000 people, 3000 buildings and spread out over 6 miles. The Maya civilization reached its peak in 800 AD with a population in excess of 5-14 million people.

Within 100 years the civilization was decimated to less than 20%. Like their beginnings, the destruction of the Mayans is shrouded in mystery. What emptied an entire civilization in such a short period of time?

Social and Political Upheaval?

Environmental Breakdown-(famine)

Sudden Climate Change?

Deadly Plague?

Archeological history has not unearthed any clues and left us only with speculation. Is it possible that whatever happened to the Mayans is about to be unleashed resulting in a global Apocalypse? Whatever awaits us, one thing for sure, the Mayans were sky-watching timekeepers. Anybody remember that Apocalyptic scare?

Now, in order to interpret Matthew 24 correctly you have to look at the text through a **birth pains lens**. A birth pain hermeneutic. Even unexperienced baby types know these 3 factors connected to birth pains.

- **Birth pains** increase in **frequency**. Birth pains increase in **intensity**.
  - Birth pains mean **new life** is about to be born.

- **Birth pains** of false teachings. (*Matthew 24:4-5, 11*)

False teachers flood our social media feeds, causing false Christianity to look more appealing than the narrow road that leads to eternal life. Deception wears the mask of enlightenment. Knowing the prophetic signs will help you stand against false teachings.

Jesus' teachings on his return will be one of the many threats to false teachings. These warnings against false Messiahs and their teachings are not only ancient warnings that Jesus offered his disciples on the Mount of Olives, but warnings modern-day 21<sup>st</sup> century end time believers.

Turn on your TV or scroll on your media feed and watch pastors teaching prosperity without repentance. Pastor's teaching God loves everyone regardless of sin, so anybody can be saved and in the kingdom of God without the repentance part of the faith transformation.

Pastor's promoting tolerance without truth.

Offering salvation without surrender.

Inviting forgiveness without repentance.

Giving invitations to eternal life without Holy Spirit born again transformation.

*<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many." (Matthew 24-NIV)*

Remember these birth pain signs will increase in **frequency** and increase in **intensity**. These false teachings are not coming from atheists or secularists, but people who claim faith in Jesus. The false prophets are coming from inside the church, <sup>11</sup> *and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

This is a redefined Jesus who winks at sin and does not call Christians to holiness. This Jesus does not warn about judgment. They affirm a Jesus who accepts **every lifestyle**. This is not the Jesus as taught by the Gospel Matthew; **this is a false Jesus**.

This is a Tribulation Jesus! A Jesus unrecognizable to heaven. A Jesus wanted in many churches rather than a New Testament Jesus that calls people to holiness. A New Testament Jesus willing to talk about hell as a real place where the hard hearted and rebellious are banished from the love, mercy and presence of God.

A New Testament Jesus that gives people the power to discard and destroy addiction because of the resurrection of Jesus.

To repent of pornography, including every kind of perversion, repent of gambling and greed, repent of alcohol abuse and uncontrollable anxiety. To stop lying. To stop stealing. To stop slandering. To stop the gluttony, stop the gossip and stop the greed.

In the End Times, many will follow a Tribulation Jesus who is really the devil masquerading as an angel of light.

**In the End the Tribulation Jesus will offer false spiritual life that is empty of the power of God and the truth of God's word, compared to a New Testament Jesus.**

**This Tribulation Jesus** warms sinners' hearts but does not change their heart. This Jesus makes them feel good, but sin also makes you feel good.

**This end time 'Tribulation Jesus' is characterized by 3 qualities:**

- 1. This Tribulation Jesus dilutes the word of God.** The Bible is outdated. The most dangerous and deceived pastors will let their people interpret the meaning the word of God, instead of declaring the Holy Spirit, original language, and context interprets the word of God.
- 2. This Tribulation Jesus distorts the attributes of God** by convincing people there is no absolute moral truth. Even more heinous is those who reinterpret what the sovereignty of God is. This Tribulation Jesus does not know everything. This God is prohibited from using evil to accomplish his intended purposes. The solution? Become students of the Word.

You cannot distinguish deception from truth if you don't know God's word. Read your bible daily. Reading only devotionals will not be enough to protect you against deception and false prophets in the end times. Read God's word from cover to cover. It is not how much you go through God's word; it is how much God's word goes through you.

Never forget to test every teaching against the word of God. 1 John 4:1,

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1-NIV)*

**3. This Tribulation Jesus keeps you away from church and away from on-fire Christians.**

*Hebrews 10:25-NIV, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Isolation makes you vulnerable. Connection and community make you accountable and keeps you from giving up. You need correction and encouragement from preaching, life groups, celebrate recovery and accountability partners.

The rise of false prophets and false teaching does not mean Jesus is powerless, it means that Jesus is providential. Purposeful. Jesus is allowing a world to fill up with deception to separate the sheep from the goats.

The Tribulation Jesus will unleash false teachings that dilute and destroy the unprepared, unaware and ungrounded in scripture.

**Bethel serves Grounded Coffee, but it's important you are grounded in Christ!**

The New Testament Jesus will strengthen and refine God's people.

The question is not whether deception will come, it is will you recognize it when it comes.

Here is a brief rant. Stop taking shots at Christians and what is happening in Jesus Christ church with antagonist Facebook posts.

All this does is give entry to the devil into the dialogue about church life. If you have a question or don't agree with something at your church, then talk to your pastor or leaders, stop taking shots at the Bride of Jesus Christ.

Jesus continued his teaching with the disciples that day on the Mount of Olives with a sequential end time architecture or archetype of what would happen at the end of the age.

➤ **Birth pains** of wars and rumors of wars. (*Matthew 24:6*)

When you add suffering from wars and the fears of wars to deceived Christians by false Christs teachings, then a meltdown begins in the church. Suffering strips the naïve, suffering destroys the deceived and suffering separates superficial Christians from their faith. Faith is kicked to the curb, faith discarded because Tribulations Jesus phonies announce, this does not work, so I will try other churches, other religions, other sources of enlightenment.

*<sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. (Matthew 24-NIV)*

Look at the world right now. Russia locked in war with Ukraine. The US has gone on a streak of destroying or controlling Venezuela, Iran and has its eyes on Cuba.

Regardless of what you think about politics, this is fact and it plays a pivotal role in the end. The Middle East has been on the brink of global wars for years.

Political divisions tear families and churches apart. This is not coincidence; this is prophecy unfolding. These attacks causing division go deeper than geopolitics. The devil's strategy is to fragment everything that God has designed for a nation's good. The devil divides nations to create chaos. The devil divides churches to weaken the body of Christ.

**The satanic strategy of division is done through 3 tactics.**

- 1. The devil wants** to make your spirit overly sensitive to offense. Misunderstanding. Pride. When you are isolated, you become unprotected prey for Satan's sinister sayings.
- 2. The devil wants** to turn your internal thoughts against one another. This leaves you helpless to depression, anxiety, anger and other emotionally damaging activities. Countless millions are paralyzed by simple life events, unmotivated to get out of bed and go to work, confused and susceptible to sin. Our world is fast becoming like the OT, where a person cannot tell truth from lies, right from wrong, up from down and their right hand from their left.

We live in staggering times of reality where because of the creation of AI, we have no idea what we are watching or hearing is an AI creation or an Almighty creation. Only the internal prompting of the Holy Spirit will allow you to discern the truth. You are not smart enough to figure out what is true, but God can help you with that.

The need to focus on the emotional needs of people in the end times, has led to a specialized set of call numbers, what 911 is to emergencies, 988 is to emotional emergencies. Is this another end time tool to influence people?

Let me say this about emotions, because I see the Tribulation doing a real number on people emotions. That is why Jesus said, "do not let your hearts be troubled," then he talked about his return in John 14. More on that in a minute.

Here are my thoughts about your feelings and emotions. Emotions are more powerful than facts. But facts(truth) is more important than feelings.

- 3. The devil wants** to destroy relationships that were meant to sharpen you, but now you engage only in relationships with people who flatter you or fight you.

How do you defend yourself against division? Recognize your battle is not against flesh and blood.

*<sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6-NIV)*

- **Birth pains** of nations and kingdoms rising and enslaving. (Matthew 24:7)

Hatred between ethnic groups has reached a zenith of intensity.

<sup>7a</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. (Matthew 24-NIV)

- **Birth pains** of famines and earthquakes. (Matthew 24:7b)

<sup>7b</sup> There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (Matthew 24-NIV)

<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains. (Matthew 24:8-NIV)

- **Birth pains** of persecution and death. (Matthew 24:9)

<sup>9</sup> Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. (Matthew 24-NIV)

- **Birth pains** of falling away from faith. (Matthew 24:10-12)

<sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (Matthew 24-NIV)

*Do not be alarmed. (vs 6)*

<sup>6b</sup> ... but see to it that you are not alarmed. (Matthew 24-NIV)

*God is sovereign. (vs 6b)*

<sup>6c</sup> Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. (Matthew 24-NIV)

*Full devotion to Christ will be required. (vs 12-13)*

<sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matthew 24-NIV)

*Anticipate Jesus' return. (vs 27)*

*<sup>1</sup> Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14-NIV)*

In the first 3 chapters of Revelation the church is referred to 17 times, but the word church is seen in chapters 4 and beyond.

The word "church," (Gr. Ekklesia) is found 25 times in the book of Revelation. It is found 19 times from chapter 1 up through chapter 3, vs. 22. It is then found 6 times after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, (chapter 19, vs. 11) through the end of the book.

The Tribulation is found in detail from chapter 6 through chapter 19. Do you know how many times the church is mentioned during the tribulation chapters? Zero times! Why? Because the church has been caught up! Raptured.

*After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." (Rev 4:1)*

Father,

Thank You that death has been swallowed up in victory through Jesus Christ's atoning death. I want to be ready for Jesus' return. Today for the first time, or for a fresh time, I put my trust in Jesus ~~in~~ Christ to run my life. I repent of my sins and surrender to God's plan. I receive God's forgiveness of my sins. I am dedicated to being God's servant until the day I die, or He takes me home by means of the RAPTURE.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.