

End-Time Pressures That Shape Us

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I. Introduction

- A. Psalm 119:105; John 12:46
- B. In many generations, people have believed that the end of the age was approaching. The significant difference in our day is that Israel has been restored as a nation to her own land. This set the stage for the fulfillment of all end-time prophecy.
- C. In this message we get a clearer picture of where we are today, and we receive direction for survival and success in the midst of the pressures that confront us.

II. Basic Principles

- A. Applied pressure (Jer. 18:1–6)
Israel—and the church—are being shaped by God as “the pot is in the hand of the potter”
- B. Negative pressures
 - 1. Satanic spiritual forces (1 Tim. 4:1–2)
 - 2. Degeneration of human character (2 Tim. 3:1–5)

III. Comparison With Days Of Noah And Lot—Luke 17:26–28

A. Noah

- 1. Satanic intervention from supernatural realm (Gen. 6:1–4)
- 2. Corruption of thought-life (Gen. 6:5)
- 3. Sexual corruption (Gen. 6:12)
- 4. Earth filled with violence (Gen. 6:13)

B. Lot

Brazen, aggressive, violent homosexuality (Gen. 19:4–11)

C. Positive Encouragement

- 1. God’s servants forewarned (Heb. 11:7)
- 2. Angels sent to help and deliver (Gen. 19:10–11)

IV. General Picture Of Present Day

A. Matt. 24:7–12

- 1. International wars – Famines – Earthquakes – Pestilences (Matt. 24:7 [see also Luke 21:11])
- 2. Illustration of birth pangs (Matt. 24:8)
- 3. Worldwide persecution of Christians – handed over to secular authorities (Matt. 24:8)
- 4. (Related) apostasy and betrayal among Christians (Matt. 24:10)
- 5. False prophets – Cults (Matt. 24:11)
- 6. Lawlessness leading to lovelessness (Matt. 24:12)

V. Our Response

- A. Optimism (Luke 21:28 [See also 1 Peter 1:19])
- B. Commitment (Psalm 110:3)

C. Identify with God's purposes (1 John 2:17)

VI. Two Main Purposes Of God

A. Restoration of unity in the church (John 17:20-23)

B. Aggressive gospel outreach (Matt. 24:3, 14)

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