Title: The Beginning of the End – A New Beginning

Text: 1 Peter 1:7 & 2 Peter 3: 10 – 13

In First Peter 1:7, Peter makes a bold statement. He says, “THE END OF ALL THINGS IS AT HAND”

**Contemporary English Version (CEV)** 7Everything will soon come to an end.

**New Living Translation (NLT)** 7The end of the world is coming soon.

**The Message (MSG)** 7-11Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted.

Now I realize that most likely – you didn’t come to church this more to hear a statement like that. About the end of the world…

Most people don’t like doomsday preachers! That’s why we have so many preachers today just tickling the ears of what I call Marsh-mellow believers.

**WHY MARSH-MELLOW CHRISTIANS? BECAUSE WHEN THEY ARE PUT IN THE FIRE THEY MELT.**

MANY WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN REALM WON’T TELL YOU THE REALITY OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THE urgency of the hour in which we live.

As we approach the end of yet another year – and as we see the unfolding in current events, one has to ask, “Are we living in the end times?”

There was a recent poll conducted that ask this same question. Forty-one percent surveyed said, “yes”.

THERE IS IN OUR DAY AND TIME A GREAT EXPECTANCY – That the end of all things is at hand”

**Listen to what the Bible says in other passages of scripture**

Romans 13:11 The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

IT IS CLOSER THAN WHAT WE REALIZE.

Romans 13:12 “The night is nearly over; (speaking of our present world) the day is almost here”
“The Lord is at hand” (Philippians 4:5).
“The Lord’s coming is near” (James 5:8).
“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

**Jesus said, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42)**

**Illustration: When we Pastored in Delmar, we had a church bus where someone had painted on the tail end of the bus, “the end is near”**

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**As we prepare for our end of the year celebrations, Let us also prepare for what Peter says in 1 Peter 1:7, “The end of all things is at hand”**

**l. Understand the Rapid Occurrence of Biblical Signs**

During the past century we have seen more Biblical signs come to pass than at any other time in recorded history.

1. The super sign was the returning of the Jews to Jerusalem in 1948.

The precondition for the return of Christ was the regathering of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland as the nation of Israel.

Predicted in Deuteronomy 30:1-3 and Hosea 3:4-5

That took place on May 14, 1948.

1. **The increase of knowledge and travel**

***Daniel 12:4 ...'even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.'***

1. Think of the knowledge that has increase in just the past 100 years – technology – science – the computer age – atomic power and engery with the splitting of the adom (known as nuector fission)
2. Now they have a new way of creating energy – it is called nuector fusion
3. **The ability to enforce the mark of the Beast**

***Revelation 13:17 ...'And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.'***

***I do not have time to tell you of the develop of what I call the 4 C’s***

1. ***The computer***
2. ***The code***
3. ***The card***
4. ***The chip***
5. ***A cashless society***
6. The increase of natural disasters as predicted in ***Luke 21:25-26***

According to US Natural Catastrophe Service

1. There has been a steady rise in natural disasters in America since 1950 (see chart)
2. Last year there were over 980 major natural disasters worldwide. (see chart)
3. The increase of earthquakes as foretold in ***Matthew 24:7 -***

According to a report done last year by CBS news Big earthquakes have doubled

 around the world since 1979.

According to Physics.org – there has been a surge of earthquake activity since 2000

1. Increased war ***Matthew 24:6-7***

Last week I stated In the history of warfare the twentieth century stands out as the bloodiest and most brutal - three times more people have been killed in wars in the last ninety years than in all the previous five hundred years.

SINCE THE END of the Second World War in 1945 there have been some 250 major wars in which over 50 million people have been killed, tens of millions made homeless, and countless millions injured and bereaved.

OH BUT THERE IS HOPE!!!

1. The gospel preached around the world

***Matthew 24:14 ...'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'***

 ***In 1895 the radio was invented enabling the gospel to be preached where it had never been preached before.***

***In 1927 the first television was invented further enabling people to preach the gospel to more and more people***

***In 1938 the first programmable computer was invented***

***In 1947 the first satellite was launched into outer space making it possible to preach the gospel around the globe***

***In 1982 the internet opened to the public enabling the spread of the gospel even further.***

***CAN I TELL YOU THAT TODAY, THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST HAVE BEEN FULFILLED!***

ACCORDING TO THIS VERSE, THERE IS NOTHING PREVENTING THE END FROM COMING.

***These signs have been fulfilled.***

NOT ONLY ARE WE SEEING THE RAPID OCCURRENCE OF BIBLICAL SIGNS TAKING PLACE

ll. We see the Spiritual Ruin of Society

NEVER BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAVE WE SEEN SUCH AN ATTACK ON THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE.

In the past one hundred years there have more mass murders than in all of recorded history

According to USA newspaper Since 2006, there have been more than 200 mass killings in the United States.

By October 1, we had only 294 days in 2015 but we had a recording of 274 mass shootings that killed 4 people or more in American alone.

Over 11 million people died during the holocaust

58 million babies have been aborted in America alone since 1973

In the mid-east today there has been an increase of mass murders unlike anything since Hitler.

WE ARE SEEING A RUIN OF SOCIETY!

Much of what is happening in our country is due to the fact that Amercia has forgotten God.

In 1963 public prayer was banned in our schools.

On June 26 2002 the pledge of allegiance to the flag was ruled unconstitutional l because it mentioned “One Nation under God”

In September 2013 there was a court battle to remove ‘In God We Trust” from our currency – Thank God they lost

1. In the last days there will be the increase of sin

***Matthew 24:12 ...'And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.'***

Within a year’s time violent crime has gone [up 15 percent](http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/crime-is-getting-worse-violent-crime-in-america-increased-by-15-percent-last-year).  The number of people that we have locked up has **quadrupled** since 1980.

## The rise in spiritualism

## it seems there are so many t.v. show dealing with Vampires, Werewolves, witches, Zoobies, and Witchcraft

## [Sleepy Hollow](http://www.listal.com/tv/sleepy-hollow-2013) (2013)

## [Witches of East End](http://www.listal.com/tv/witches-of-east-end) (2013)

## [Supernatural](http://www.listal.com/tv/supernatural-42121) (2005)

## [Blood Ties](http://www.listal.com/tv/blood-ties) (2006)

## [The Vampire Diaries](http://www.listal.com/tv/vampire-diaries) (2009)

## [Buffy the Vampire Slayer](http://www.listal.com/tv/buffy-the-vampire-slayer) (1997)

## [Game of Thrones](http://www.listal.com/tv/song-ice-fire) (2011)

## [Sabrina, the Teenage Witch](http://www.listal.com/tv/sabrina-the-teenage-witch) (1996)

## [Constantine](http://www.listal.com/tv/constantine-2014) (2014)

## Harry Potter (2001)

## *1 Timothy 4:1 ...'Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.'*

1. There will be apostasy

***Timothy 4:3-4 ...'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.'***

1. **Increase of violence and sexual immorality**
2. ***Matthew 24:37 ...'But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.'***
3. ***Luke 17:28-30 ...'Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.'***

**I REALIZE THAT WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY IS NOT POPLAR IN SOME REALMS – BUT THE ENDORCEMENT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FROM OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE CHURCH’S SILENCE ABOUT THE ISSUE IS A SIGN OF THE END TIMES AND IT WILL BRI**NG DOWN THE JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON AMERICA AND THE CHURCH.

1. Jesus foretold of how Christians would be killed in the end times.

***Matthew 24:9-10 ...'Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.***

***Christians are now being looked at around the world with distain and hatred***

***Are we not seeing this come to pass in our day with the beheading of Christians***

1. The Bible tells of famine in the last days.

MOST OF US IN AMERICA DO NOT FEEL THE EFFECTS OF HUNGER

BUT DID YOU KNOW?

* Thousands die every day of starvation AND global starvation is spreading and increasing causing 1 Billion people to go hungry around the world.
* According to Sputnick international [2.4 BILLION people survive on less than 2 dollars per day!](http://en.ria.ru/society/20141018/194247656/Ban-Ki-Moon-24-Billion-People-Survive-on-Less-Than-2-a-Day.html)
* Did you know that Mexico’s minimum wage was less than $5.00 a day in U.S. dollars
* Did you also know that 46.7 million people (14.8 percent) in America live in poverty.
1. There is the development of a one world governmental system known as the G-20 nations.

Did you know that there is a world bank?

Did you know there is a world judicial system? It is call the international court of justice or the world court.

Did you know that according to ABC news China is now calling for a new global currency?

You may ask, Pastor why is all this important?

Because our scripture text 1 Peter 1:7 simply says “THE END OF ALL THINGS IS AT HAND”

BUT I HAVE GOOD NEWS THIS MORNING!

**lll. There is going to be a Rapture of the Saints**

Jesus said Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

**In a world filled with no hope, we have a blessed hope.**

Paul said in Titus 2:3 *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

Hebrews 10:27 says, *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

We are not among those who have no hope!

1 Thess. 4: 13 says, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

Vs. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Peter 1:7 says, the end of all things is at hand” BUT **GET RIGHT FOR THE FLIGHT**

**I HAVE A ONE WAY TICKET OUT OF THIS WORLD.**

It is called the rapture of the saints.

**1. IT WILL BE SUDDEN**

A. 1 Cor. 15:51-52 - The Rapture will take place in the twinkling of an eye. A blink of the eye has been times at 1/50th of a second. A twinkling is even faster than that!

B. There will be absolutely no time to prepare. Either a person will be ready at that instant, or he will not be ready.

C. Bible is clear in its teaching that we not count on there be another day in which to get ready, Pro. 27:1, but that we should be saved today, 2 Cor. 6:2.

D. There will be no announcements made, no advertisements posted, the Lord will come and go for His church in a split second of time.

**2. IT WILL BE SOLEMN**

A. Solemn because all those who do not know the Lord Jesus will be left behind, Luke 17:34-36. (Ill. After the rapture, there will be many who will look for their missing loved ones, but they will never find them and they will never see them again!)

B. Mother's will be separated from their children, husbands from wives, etc. (Ill. Luke 12:42-48 - These verses teach us that today is the time of preparation. If you know to do something and refuse, you are guilty of sin - James 4:17)

C. It will be a solemn time because the rapture will signal the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

**3. IT WILL BE SHOCKING**

A. Many will expect to go with the redeemed, but will instead be left behind, Ill. Matt. 7:21-22.

B. Many have false hopes for Heaven, but do not be deceived, God knows the heart - Psa. 44:21.

**4. IT WILL BE SATISFYING**

A. There will be a glad reunion at that time, 1 Thes. 4:13-18. Loved ones, saints of old, Jesus, the Heavenly Father will all be there.

B. There will be eternal blessing, 1 Thes. 4:17; Rev. 21:4. There will be only good things there!

C. There will be a new body, 1 Cor. 15:51-53. No more death, disease, aging, pain, etc.

D. There will be a new home. (Ill. We are pilgrims this evening - Heb. 11:30.) One day, we will go home to live in Heaven. (Ill. Streets of gold, no night, no sin, no curse, nothing but glory forever!)

**5. IT WILL BE SAD**

A. Why sad? Because some who are sitting here this very evening may to be ready to meet Jesus. If He were to come right no, you would never have another opportunity to be saved.