

ADAM TRAFFORD – END TIMES KEY POINTS/SCRIPTURES SUMMARY.

Once again apologies for the length of this. I ended up with 8-9 main points to fit into a half hour talk, hence I had trouble turning those 8-9 points into 3 and squashing it into a summary. Thanks to everyone for the chance to have studied this I really appreciate the experience.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE #1 – Christ’s own word regarding the coming of the end.

Outlined in –
Matthew 24, 25, 26.
Mark 13.
Luke 21.

Mark 13:2, Jesus replies to disciple’s comments on the magnificent nature of the temple. “These magnificent buildings will be so completely demolished that not one stone will be left on top of another.”

POINT #1 –

My introductory point was centred around my belief that the most certainty we have been given about the signs of the end times come from the teaching of Jesus. The difficulty a lot of people have in understanding the book of ‘Revelation’ is made much easier by tracing the events of that book back to Christ’s explanation of these events. I found this to be the case in understanding the order of the events during the tribulation. When studying areas such as the seven seal, trumpet and bowl judgements, Christ’s description of these events gave me a much clearer picture.

We know that Christ’s word is solid and truthful, as we know it is God’s word and his promises will never be broken. The statement Jesus made in Mark 13:2 that the temple would be destroyed would have at the time seemed impossible to his disciples, but as we now know this eventuated to be true. So as difficult to believe some of these events may seem, we know that if spoken by Christ, these events are surely a certainty.

I also found that given the many opinions and theories out there on this subject, it is important to trace everything back to Christ’s word. If a particular aspect of a theory contradicts the words of Jesus, then to me the validity of this theory is up for question.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE #2 – The Tribulation.

7 year tribulation period split into 2 three and a half year periods.

Scripture references to the tribulation are plentiful,

Some I found useful –

REVELATION 6 (Seven seal judgements)

REVELATION 8 through 11 (Seven trumpet judgements)

REVELATION 15:5 through 16 (Seven bowl judgements)

REVELATION 13:13 -18. (False prophet/Western European Leader/The Antichrist)

MARK 13:14 (False Prophet's statue standing in the temple)

POINT #2

The main point relating to all the judgements, as discussed before, is to relate these events back to Christ's description. This can give you a clear picture of the order in which they occur, and the length they go for. The picture I settled on was this.

#1 – Seven Seal Judgements – occurring through the first half of the 1st three and a half years. – therefore the first quarter of the 7-year period.

#2 – Seven trumpet Judgements – occurring through the second half of the 1st three and a half years. – therefore the second quarter of the 7-year period.

#3 – Seven bowl judgements – occurring through the entire second half of the 7 years.

Would encourage you to study the events of these judgements, through their verses in revelation and also through Christ's description of these events. (War, famine, disease, earthquakes etc).

My other main point regarding the tribulation is the existence of the “Wester European Leader” who will rise and bring the apparent time of world peace. Again encourage you to read the verses relating to this topic. Some points explored on this leader were.

- He will offer a peace treaty to cease war in Israel, appearing to offer a way out for the nation.
- For the first 3 and a half years will lead this apparent time of world peace.
- At the halfway point he will establish a one-world religion with himself at the helm.
- He will erect a statue of himself in the temple, giving it the power to speak and demanding the people to worship him as God.
- He will declare war on Israel and God's people will then flee into the wilderness where God will protect them during this time.

Jesus describes this time in Mark 13:19 - “For those will be days of greater horror than at any time since God created the world” – What horror and suffering we have already seen (earthquakes, hunger, slaughter at the hands of dictator's), imagine the sight's of these days.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE #3 – The Rapture of the Church

Matthew 24:40 – “Two men will be working together in a field; one will be taken, the other left. Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left. So be prepared, because you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.”

1st Corinthians 15:23 – “Christ was raised first, then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised.

Matthew 24:29 – 40 – Encourage to read through.

POINT #3 –

There are many differing opinions on the exact occurrence of the rapture. An event described as those who are dead in Christ being raised and “caught up in the air” with their saviour. I personally have not settled on my opinion yet. During the study it swung back and forth and to this day still is. Even writing this now I find myself trying to decipher the meaning of certain scripture as to come up with the answer before I finish.

All I can offer is –

We KNOW this will happen, 1st Corinthians 15; 23 assures it along with many other passages of scripture.

It will occur “in the blink of an eye”. (Matthew 24:40), so we need to be ready as if it were going to happen the very next second. It is very easy to fall asleep, make excuses for our sin and assume that all this is too big to think about or too far away to worry about being ready yet. Our Lord is coming I believe this should excite us enough to be ready for his return.

Whatever the day, the hour, the minute of his return, at the end of today take comfort in knowing that you are one day closer to seeing his face.

- I would really encourage people to study this event further. Why are you a Christian? What makes you push through this earthly life? I’d assume a lot of people would include seeing and dwelling with Christ in their answer. If that is what we live for, wouldn’t we like to know about the moment in which this will occur?

The rapture to me is such a great moment as I do believe that as confusing as this walk gets, the very second we see him we will finally understand.