



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



Dave Leinenbach, Sr. Pastor . 4660 Portland Rd. NE . Salem, OR 97305 . 503-949-0342 . www.jesusourjubileechurch.com

MAY 2025 PEACE AND SAFETY THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION?

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

It seems like for the first time in modern history, world dominance is being achieved and accepted. Nations that have never submitted to an outside authority are now bending their knee to the United States, a global superpower that has stood up and proclaimed, "There will be peace or else!" Because of the massive strength of this end-time superpower, even its enemies seem to be yielding peacefully.

What is going on? Why is this coming to pass so rapidly? But most importantly, how does this apply to the Church and end-time prophecies that are proclaimed in the Word of God? With that in mind, I want to give you some food for thought.

There are two passages in the New Testament that appear to contradict each other. One statement is by Jesus and the other statement is by the Apostle Paul.

Jesus said in Matthew 24 that as we approach the end of days, there would be wars, and nations would come against nations (ethnic division), along with famines and earthquakes. This paints a picture of pending disaster before the end.

Matthew 24:6-8 (KJV)

⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

But then, on the other hand, Paul said in his letter to the Church of Thessalonica that before the end, people would be living in peace and safety.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (KJV)

¹ But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

² For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

³ For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

How can there be PEACE AND SAFETY before the end as Paul describes it and WARS AND FAMINES before the end as Jesus describes it? Is this a contradiction?

In 2nd Timothy 2:15, we are told to RIGHTLY divide the Word of Truth. If we can RIGHTLY divide the Word, then we can also WRONGLY divide the Word. There is NO CONTRADICTION in the Word of God, be what APPEARS as a contradiction comes from not “rightly dividing the Word.” To RIGHTLY divide the Word, first of all we must know who is speaking, to whom are they speaking, and what is the context of the times in which it is spoken. With this in mind, let’s look at these two scriptures.

In Matthew 24, Jesus is speaking to His Jewish followers about the things that will take place BEFORE He comes to set up His kingdom at the SECOND COMING. The time before He sets up His kingdom is what He called the GREAT TRIBULATION. This is a period of seven years where great destruction comes upon the earth through the Antichrist, the beast, and the false prophet.

Jesus was NOT speaking to Christians in this passage because at the time He spoke these words, the church did NOT EXIST! The church was born when Jesus placed His blood on the altar in heaven on the day of His Resurrection. (The altar in heaven is also known as the mercy seat.) He became the FIRST-BORN of many brethren (Romans 8:29) and took His place as the Head of the church (Colossians 1:18).

In Matthew 24 Jesus was speaking to the Jews in response to their continued questions of when He would set up His kingdom and how they would know when that was going to take place.

Matthew 24:3-4 (KJV)

³ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Paul, on the other hand, was speaking to Christians (the church). He was informing them of what would take place before the catching away (called the Rapture), which will take place before the SECOND COMING when Jesus will set up His millennial kingdom. Paul states that before the Rapture the (the world) would be saying, "Peace and safety." Then when the church is taken away, those left behind would have sudden destruction come upon them. Paul emphasized that while those in darkness will have destruction come upon them, the church is assured that they will escape this impending peril because they are NOT the children of darkness, nor would this day come upon THEM unexpectedly.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5 (KJV)

⁴ But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

⁵ Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Through the teachings of Jesus and Paul, we can see clearly that there are two events to take place in our future. The first is the CATCHING AWAY as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4. The second event is when Jesus comes back to set up His millennial kingdom that He describes in Matthew 24.

So, what about the church today? What should WE expect? Well, actually what we should expect is what we are now beginning to see which is PEACE AND SAFETY being proclaimed and put into place on the world stage. Events are happening at a more rapid rate than anyone could have imagined.

In Luke 18 Jesus presents the question, **Luke 18:8 (KJV)**

⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? Yes, HE WILL FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH! And where will He find it? **IN HIS TRUE CHURCH!**

Ephesians 5:27 (KJV)

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

One of the themes that Jesus taught in several of His parables can be summed up in His statement in Luke 19:13 where He said: **"Keep working until I come."**

So, what are we supposed to be doing during this time of proclaimed peace and safety? We must NOT BE COMPLACENT, but vigilant and prepared, recognizing the opportunity before us. This is the time proclaimed by Jesus when He said the fields are

white (over-ripe) for harvest (John 4:35). That is what the church should be doing; GATHERING THE HARVEST so that when Jesus returns, He will find faith in His glorious church. It is time for the church to evangelize like never before.

Matthew 28:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Throw out the nets, bring in the lost, proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons! JESUS IS ALIVE AND HE IS COMING BACK.....ARE YOU READY TO MEET HIM?

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE PRAY THIS OUTLOUD:

I believe with all my heart that Jesus died for me. I believe with all my heart that He was raised from the dead for me. I turn away from sin. I turn away from everything that is not pleasing to Jesus. From this day forward I declare that JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE. I expect the Holy Spirit to lead me and guide me into all the truth. Thank you Lord Jesus for making me a new creation...I will serve you the rest of my days...COME ON IN JESUS!

If you prayed that prayer, you are a NEW CREATION, please, please, please contact me so I can help you get started on the journey of your New Life In Christ Jesus.

Kathy and I are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of prayers and offerings to help us spread the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth. SHALOM!

KATHY AND I DECREE YOU BLESSED IN JESUS NAME!

Pastor Dave and Kathy

Matthew 6:33

You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.