

## **A Careful Study of the End Times:**

### **A Preface to the Rest of the End**

*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*

*Matthew 24:3 (NIV) 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. <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. <sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains. <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. <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. <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. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

*Matthew 24:3-13 (NIV)*

*As I watched, the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals on the scroll. Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" <sup>2</sup> I looked up and saw a white horse standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory.*

*<sup>3</sup> When the Lamb broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, "Come!" <sup>4</sup> Then another horse appeared, a red one. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere.*

*<sup>5</sup> When the Lamb broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, "Come!" I looked up and saw a black horse, and its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, "A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste <sup>1</sup>the olive oil and wine."*

*When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being say, "Come!" <sup>8</sup> I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale green. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals.*

*Revelation 6:1-8 (NLT)*

*Love the Lord, all his faithful people!  
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he pays back in full.*

*<sup>24</sup> Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord.*

*Psalms 31:23-24 (NIV)*

*Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.*

*Psalms 27:14 (NIV)*

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NIV)

Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
they will be remembered forever.

<sup>7</sup>They will have no fear of bad news;  
their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Psalm 112:7 (NIV)