

SCG OPEN SESSION
SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM
TITLE: LIVING AT THE EDGE OF TIME

INTRODUCTION

“Living at the edge of time” relates to Jesus’ Second Coming.

- **The disciples asked Jesus when He would return**

(Matthew 24:3 & 4)

3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.”

The exact time, no one knows

(Matthew 24:36)

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only

- **There are two parts to Jesus’ Return**

- *He comes in the cloud to take the Church out of the world – THE RAPTURE*
(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

- The hope for those who died

(Verses 13 & 14)

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”

- Those who are alive when Jesus comes

(Verses 15-17)

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Jesus tells about the Rapture

(Matthew 24:40-44)

40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Paul tells us Jesus will come like a thief in the night

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

- Paul tells us “we are sons of light”
(Verse 5)
“You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”
- Paul tells us what we must do - “do not sleep but watch and be sober”
(Verses 6-7)
6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.
- Paul says “God did not appoint us to wrath”
(Verse 9)
9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

○ *The physical return of Jesus – THE SECOND COMING*

(Acts 1:9-11)

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

(Luke 21:27)

Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

(Revelation 1:7)

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Instead of the time, Jesus gives us signs before the Rapture and His Second Coming in Matthew 24 and confirms John’s prophecy in Revelation 6.

- There are 24 signs given by Jesus in Matthew 24.
 - The first 9 signs are called “the beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:8)
 - It is the labor pains of a mother about to give birth
 - Then 15 more signs are given called “the great tribulation”
 - Hopefully, the Church has already been raptured.

Consider Matthew 24:1-14 – the Words of Jesus, and Revelation 6:1-17 in particular, the 4 horses (Verses 1-8)

In Matthew 24:1-14 – The Beginning of Sorrows

In Revelation 6:1-8 – God’s Judgments - the 4 Horses

Matthew 24:3 – The disciples asked Jesus two questions:

- When will Jerusalem be destroyed? (Matthew 24:1-3)
 - The answer is found in Luke 21:12-24
- What are the signs of your coming?
 - The answer is found in Matthew 24:4-26; 29-39

Power-point of 24 signs given by Jesus

Revelation 6:1-8 – The 4 Horses

(Revelation 6:1)

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

- Who is the Lamb? (Rev. 5:8-14)
 - The Lamb is Jesus Christ
- What are the seals?
 - They relate to a scroll or a book that has been closed and sealed
 - The book tells of the last days of human history and the redemption of man and his destiny
- Who are the living creatures?
 - They are angelic beings. John chooses certain animals to describe their characteristics. (Rev. 4:6-8)
 - A lion symbolizes supremacy
 - An ox symbolizes strength
 - Man symbolizes intelligence
 - Eagle symbolizes swiftness
 - They tell us two things about God
 - The supremacy, strength, intelligence and swiftness of God
 - All of nature and the world owe worship to God alone.
- Who are the 24 Elders? (Rev. 4:4)
 - They are close to the throne of God
 - They are clothed in white
 - They have crowns of gold on their head
 - They represent the 12 Patriarchs of the Old Testament and the 12 Apostles of the New Testament
 - Why?
 - What they have are what is promised to believers
 - Because of their song

(Rev. 5:9)

“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,”

- There are 4 horses and their riders (Rev. 6:2-8)
The Rider is the same and he comes riding one horse at a time.
- First is the white horse (V. 2)

- The horse is white, the rider had a bow, crown and he went out to conquer
- He can be mistaken to be Christ but he is not. Why? Because:
 - Christ is already a conqueror
 - Christ uses a sword and not a bow
 - Christ is in heaven and the rider is on earth.
 - In Rev. 19:11
 - Christ is on a White Horse in heaven
 - When He comes, He comes with His Church and not for His Church
 - He comes to judge and make war
- Why is he the anti-Christ?
 - He tries to resemble Christ – He is a deceiver
 - A white horse - comes to conquer.
 - Christ is already a Conqueror - that’s what makes us more than conquerors
 - The crown he wears is not a royal crown
 - Two different Greek words:
 - “*Stephenos*” in Rev. 6:2
 - “*Diadema*” in Rev. 19.
 - Bow – symbolizes military power
 - This is how the anti-christ will come to rule the world – by political and military power.
 - We are seeing this struggle for world dominance – America will eventually not be a world power because the anti-christ is not an American.
 - He is a deceiver and the people who are living in sin are easily being deceived

(2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The White Horse is the symbol of international power and politics though military conquest.

- The second is the Red Horse (Vs 3-4)
 - He comes to take peace from the earth and men will kill each other.
 - What will the climate of the world be like?
 - Strife – violence, abuse, hatred, anger, murder, terrorism, war and bloodshed
 - Division and strife – racial, social, status struggles.
 - Family - husband-wife, parents-children conflicts
 - Religious wars and nations against nations

(2 Timothy 3:1-3)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good.

(John 8:44)

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

(Revelation 13:7-8)

7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

(Revelation 17:15-18)

(Vs17-18)

For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

The Red Horse is the symbol of civil war and strife that leads to bloodshed.

- The third is the black horse (Verses 5-6)
 - He has power to control the economy and the necessities for living - food and business
 - He has a set of scales to measure
 - Food is measured indicating food rationing
 - A penny is a day’s wage at that time
 - Famine is the order of the day.

The prophet Jeremiah says,

(Lamentation 4:9)

Those slain by the sword are better off than those who die of hunger; For these pine away, stricken for lack of the fruits of the field.

The Black Horse is the symbol of economic disruption – it is more than famine, it includes inflation.

- The fourth horse is pale in color (Verses 7-8)
 - He has a name “death”.
 - He kills one fourth of the people on earth.
 - How? -Nuclear warfare, weapons of mass destruction, famine, diseases, caused by sinful lifestyle, drugs abuse, HIV, etc. Pestilence, flu epidemics and other diseases causes by animals.

The Pale Horse is the symbol of death and sickness and disease.

CONCLUSION

- The picture of the 4 horses and its rider is not difficult to imagine today. The possibility is real in today’s scenario
- The Bible predicts without uncertainty that it is going to happen and has already begun
- What is even more devastating is that Matthew described it as the beginning of sorrow or the seal judgment.
- The Great Tribulation is yet to come – this is described as the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments in Revelation 8 & 16.

24 Signs of the Second Coming

<u>No:</u>	<u>Signs:</u>	<u>Scripture texts</u>		
1	Deception	Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24		
2	False christs	Matt 24: 5, 23-26		
3	Wars and rumors	Matt 24:6-7		
4	Famines	Matt 24:7; Rev. 6:5-6		
5	Pestilences	Matt 24:7; Rev. 6:8		
6	Earthquakes	Matt 24:7; Rev. 6:12-17		
7	Anti-semitism	Matt 24:9; Mark 13:9, 13		
8.	Offences	Matt 24:10; 18:1-10		
9.	Betrayals	Matt 24:9; Mark 13:12		
10	Hatred	Matt 24:10; 2 Tim 3:1-9		
11	False Prophets	Matt 24: 11, 24; Rev. 13		
12	Lawlessness	Matt 24:12	abounding	
13	Love decreasing	Matt 24:12-13; 2 Tim. 3		
14	Increased missionary work	Matt 24:14		
15	Abomination of	Matt 24:15; Dan. 9:27	desolation	2
Th. 2:4; Rev. 13				
16	New Jewish nation	Matt 24:9, 15-26		
	In Judea	Ezek. 37; Daniel 9:27		
17	New Jewish temple	Matt 24:15,26; Rev.11:1-2		
		Dan. 8:9-2; 9:27;11:45;2 Th. 2:4		
18	Great tribulation	Matt 24:21; Dan 12:1;	of 3 ½ years	
		Rev. 12:1-19,21		
19	Martyrdoms	Matt 24:9; Dan. 8:21; Rev. 7:9-17;		
		11:7; 15:2-4; 20:4-6		
20	Flight of Jews from	Matt 24:16-21; Rev. 12:6, 14, Isa.	Judea	16:1-5;
		45; Ezek. 20:33-38; Hos 2:14-16		
21	Increased satanic	Matt 24:24; 2 Th. 2:8-12;	powers	Rev. 13;
		16:14; 19:20		
22	Surfeiting	Matt 24:38; Lk 17:28; 21:34		
23	Sex crimes	Matt 24:38; Luke 17:27		
24	Procrastination and lethargy	Matthew 24:39		