

# THE PRODUCT OF DOOMSDAY THINKING

**By: Phillip Hayes**

*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? [Matthew 24:3]*

*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. [Matthew 24:21]*

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. [2Timothy 1:7]*

I have been soaring in the heights of God's goodness! I am encouraged and thrilled with what God is doing throughout our great land! As a matter of fact, I haven't been this excited since I first got saved. Praise the Lord!

Several have told me that wherever they go people are greeting one another with a smile. During the past Christmas season, "Merry Christmas" came from the lips of smiling store clerks at Walmart, Lowes and others! Gone was the "Happy Holidays" greeting of the past several years. Thank God! A new spirit is in the land and it is a good spirit! Americans are once again feeling proud of their country.

Of course, the devil is stirred up and causing havoc across our nation, but that's the way it is supposed to be! He is really exposing himself!

There are some misguided individuals that continue to walk in darkness and refuse to walk in this refreshing spirit of the present. That is a shame, especially when some Christians have chosen to remain in a spirit of despair and hopelessness.

The day before I started writing this message my wife told me she had seen a video of a once well-known Pentecostal minister saying, “The ones going into the White House are worse than the ones going out.”

I said, “That is ridiculous; how anyone could arrive at such a conclusion knowing all that had taken place during the past eight years of the previous administration?”

As I continued to think about that statement I remembered a message I had written some ten years back. The title was “The Doomsday Syndrome”.

I will be revisiting much of what I said in that message as the truths contained therein fits perfectly today.

Frankly, many Christians have an Old Testament philosophy that develops into a spiritual sickness I have called, “A Doomsday Syndrome”. It is a doctrine of despair and its messengers must be exposed. This is what I want to talk to you about: The philosophy, the sickness and the horrible results of such teaching.

Throughout the Bible you will find many references about the end of the world. As one ponders these scriptures about the end many questions come to mind. When will the end come? When are we to expect the Great Tribulation? When will Christ return for His church? There is little doubt in my mind that every Christian since Pentecost has pondered these questions.

Certainly, natural reasoning about such times would no doubt bring depression. After all, devastating earthquakes, wars, chaos, death and sudden destruction are not what one would be thrilled about facing!

Rich or poor, trouble comes to everyone and Christians are no exception. In Apostolic times and in the dark ages God’s people endured the horrors of deception, persecution and tribulation. However, from the very beginning of the church, God’s people have joyfully anticipated the return of Christ.

Shortly after the church began the spirit of antichrist infiltrated the church and false doctrines began to rise. Some thirty years after Pentecost the epistle of Jude was written

encouraging the church to, “*earnestly contend for the faith once delivered*”. Trouble seemed to be on every side for the church. Many were looking eastward for the second coming of Jesus.

During this awful time of persecution and deception the Apostle Paul wrote the Church at Thessalonica these prophetic words, “*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*” [2Thessalonians 2:1-3]

Paul wanted the church of his generation to know that Christ was not coming back at that time! I wonder how many today could receive a message like that? The Apostle Paul went on to comfort the church with these words, “*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*” [2Thessalonians 2:13-17]

Paul advised the church to hold on to what they had been taught. God had called them! They were *chosen to salvation*. They were saved! They were chosen of God to obtain glory. He stated that God loved them and had given them *everlasting consolation and good hope through Grace*. In other words, don't worry for they were God's people.

As centuries passed the church continued to grow in spite of persecution and tribulation. Roman Catholicism evolved and the persecutions of the people of God continued throughout the

dark ages. No doubt, millions have endured untold torment and torture at the hands of those empowered by the antichrist spirit. I believe God's chosen thought the very end of time was upon them and Jesus would come at any time to rescue them.

As a matter of fact history records many throughout the past centuries that thought the Antichrist was Nero during his reign of terror; or Constantine. Most all of the Roman Catholic Popes have been designated this title also.

In modern times we have heard of prophets that have prophesied the end was at hand. Some actually gave certain dates that Jesus would come or "rapture" the church. Although their prophecies never came to pass huge denominations had their genesis with some of them including the Seventh Day Adventist and the Jehovah Witnesses.

The modern Pentecostal and Charismatic movements have also had their share of these end time prophets in their ranks. One of the great "healing revivalists" of the forties and fifties predicted the church would be *raptured* in 1977. In the seventies another well known minister and author wrote a book in which he described a vision he had. In this vision he understood there would be seven years of plenty for America, and seven years of famine and turmoil. He was very emphatic that this would be happening right away. In the 1980's there was quite a stir among Pentecostals over a book written by one of these prophets that stated rather boldly that *the rapture* would occur in 1988.

Another of these prophets had a large listening audience by way of radio. His prophecies included limited nuclear warfare in Israel before the end of 1988. Also, President Regan would die in office. He further stated he was God's last day prophet and that Grace was over and no one else would be saved. Obviously, none of these prophecies came to pass. Thirty years later, he still enjoys a listening audience and financial support.

This writer has been involved much over the past forty years with the end time scenario and its prophets. My experience among many of those that claimed *supernatural end*

*time insight* has led me to come to some startling conclusions. I am sure these conclusions will not set well with some that read this message. However, I humbly ask each reader to prayerfully consider what I have to say. You and your loved ones spiritual welfare is at stake!

It has now been 2,017 years (plus or minus three years) since Christ came into this world. It has been approximately 1,984 years (plus or minus three years) since the church was born on the day of Pentecost. The “last days” also called the “dispensation of Grace” began that day. The Roman calendar which is still in use today should have begun counting from Pentecost rather than the birth of Christ; for Christ was under the Law and Grace entered the world at Pentecost. Pentecost birthed the Christian era!

The Apostle Peter’s great message on that glorious day quoted the prophesy of the Prophet Joel: “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.*” [Acts 2:16-18]

Peter said the outpouring they were receiving was the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy and it would occur *in the last days*. Therefore, *the last days* began on the day of Pentecost! This is why everyone can safely proclaim we are living *in the last days*.

Now for the last 1,984 years the last days have been filled with all kinds of trouble. Multiplied millions of people, including Christians, Jews and Muslims have suffered unthinkable hardships and persecutions. There have been earthquakes of tremendous magnitude. There have been and are, wars and rumors of wars just like Jesus foretold. There has also been great deception throughout this time. There should be little doubt the antichrist spirit has had a heyday all these years.

Among Christians there is little unity and much division. The devil has been faithful in fulfilling his mission!

In other words, much of the prophetic passages of the Bible have been literally fulfilled during the past 1,984 years. Now, you may have an interpretation a little different from myself, but is the interpretation a revelation from God?

Many good men and women that I believe truly loved the Lord have been greatly mistaken about the very time in which they lived. They had a revelation! They had a vision, a dream! But, it wasn't from God! No doubt they believed their revelation was straight from the Holy Spirit. No doubt they felt God had chosen them to reveal their "end time revelation" to their fellow Christians. But, their prophecy, vision or dream never came to pass.

Throughout the seventies I became quite involved with end time prophesy. I began to believe some of those that were prophesying that the end of all things was imminent. The seventies proved to be a time when great turmoil was in the world and it was very easy to believe the end was truly upon us. Vietnam and the threat of the Cold War were on the minds of everyone. Droughts and famine had escalated in Africa and other countries. America was seeing a huge increase in food and gasoline prices. The government of the United States was in complete moral failure with the Vice President and President resigning in disgrace. It also seemed every time you picked up the newspaper the headlines blared out another plane crash, or an earthquake. Television news anchors were asking aloud, "Are we living in the end?" Country singers, folk singers and rock and roll singers were singing songs about the end of the world. I'm telling you, forty plus years ago it was easy to believe we were at the end!

It became a doctrine! A doctrine of despair! A doctrine that ultimately led to the destruction of multitudes of relationships and families! We were "caught up" in the message of the end. I hate to admit it, but I preached it and lived it! Tribulation was at the door! The Antichrist would appear at any moment. The Mark of the Beast was the Bar Code being

implemented. We wouldn't be able to buy or sell! Famine would soon strike America as it had in other countries. We would not escape for America had sinned! Flee the wrath to come! Get out of the cities! Flee to the mountains! Get in the country! Make a garden. Store up some food! Get a bicycle because you won't be able to drive. Don't forget to store up the toilet paper!!

Back then, I heard about a brother that buried a large rail road container; filled it up with paper products and all manner of non perishing stuff in preparation for the Great Tribulation. It sounds funny now, but there was real panic back then. It seemed the spirit of fear was everywhere!

I remember a minister telling my children they would never grow up. They would never be teenagers. Don't plan a future for them; there wasn't going to be any! Don't worry about High School! World-wide famine is upon us! The Antichrist is here! The Great Tribulation has begun!

One night in the early seventies, one of these prophets that were popular at the time told the younger ministers in attendance, *"Stop trying to build a ministry, there isn't time"*.

I have personally known many men and women that quit their jobs, sold their homes and uprooted their families because they believed the end of the world was here. Some sold homes that were paid for and gave all the money to some of these prophets.

Folks were living in hell and didn't even know it! There was no future for them, or their children. Why plan anything? Why should our children get an education to better their selves if there wasn't any time left?

Can you imagine the physiological impact these statements had on children? Can you imagine growing up thinking you will never have a wife, a husband, or children? Imagine a life with no dreams; no ambitions. The young dreams of being a doctor, a nurse, an engineer, a teacher, a fireman, a policeman, a minister; or perhaps you were a little girl and all you really wanted to be was a mother and house wife. Think

about it! No future equates no hope, and when hope is gone, *all is lost!*

I hope some of you will feel my sadness when I think of my children and the children of countless thousands, if not millions that have suffered what I call *The Doomsday Syndrome*.

The word syndrome means: a condition; a disorder; *a disease*. It is a disease. *A spiritual disease!* A disease caused by misguided individuals proclaiming doomsday settings that suggest, if not demand, an altered lifestyle of honest God fearing men and women.

This is the very *disease* that caused over nine hundred men, women, boys and girls to commit suicide while under the influence of an end time prophet by the name of Jim Jones. You see, Jim Jones took away their dreams, hopes and their ambitions; therefore there was nothing for them to live for. They had fallen victim to *this horrible disease!* Most of you can also recall other tragic situations caused by the *Doomsday Syndrome* such as those precious lives lost at Waco, Texas. Most likely you may know someone that has been, or is presently involved with an end time or last days ministry that hold their people in bondage through fear of what they say is coming upon America and the world.

Most everyone past and present that are involved in this movement are motivated almost entirely out of fear. Fear!

Fear of what? Fear of man; fear of the Antichrist; fear of persecution; fear of tribulation; and sadly an unhealthy, unscriptural and unholy fear of God. These are the products of doomsday thinking!

The scriptures hold the key to the only cure of this awful teaching. The Scriptures teach us not to fear what man can do to us! The Scriptures tell us, "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*" [2Timothy 1:7] Jesus said, "*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*" [Luke 21:28]



Folks, when you put your trust in your own abilities or in someone else other than God, you are on your way to deceiving yourself! Our faith must rest solely in God. God has proven over and over in the Old Testament and in the New that He is more than capable of delivering His children from whatever situation they may find themselves in. Beyond that, He has also proven to me over the years that He is truly the same, yesterday, today, and forever!

Honestly, I HAVE NO FEAR of what is coming upon this earth. I have been delivered from the bondage of fear for years, and I want you delivered! Praise God! I know that whatever comes, God has ordained it thus. If I must endure tribulations, persecutions, the Antichrist and the Mark of the Beast, I know my God will give me whatever I need to stand through it all. You see, my confidence is not in my flesh, or anyone else. My confidence is in God. My eyes are toward Heaven from whence I look for my Savior to appear!

What about the end time? What should a Christian do about the time they are living in? First of all, you really don't know if you are living at the very end of the last days or not! Do you? Be honest!

I believe the answer on how Christians should conduct their lives has been provided by our Lord and His Apostles. When you honestly examine the Word of God concerning all this you will come away with this conclusion: there is virtually nothing you can do about what will come to pass. God has spoken, and whatever He has declared will happen! We have Divine Assurance that God has and will always have a place prepared for His people.

I have stated many times that we do not know what Biblical prophesies have already come to pass. All we know is the church has endured tremendous tribulations and persecutions since its beginning.

What stands out very clear in our Lord's message in Matthew twenty-four is the church will NOT KNOW the day nor the hour of His coming! *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."*

[Matthew 24:36] Jesus compared the time of His coming to the days of Noah, “**And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**”

[Matthew 24:39] And again, our Lord told us to, “**Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**”

[Matthew 24:42] And again He emphasized for us to be ready for His coming at all times! “**Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**”

[Matthew 24:44]

So what is Christ’s message for His church? Be prepared! Be Ready for His Coming! That’s it! **BE READY AT ALL TIMES!**

What if your theology taught that certain things would have to come to pass before the second coming of Christ, and you were wrong? What if Jesus came back today, tonight, or tomorrow? Would you be ready?

I’m not trying to mess with your theology, your revelation, or your interpretation of God’s Word. I am saying my best advice for everyone is to **BE PREPARED** at all times for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One thing I have learned over the past forty plus years is the more I pray, fast, and study God’s Word; the more I realize how little I do know.

You can have all the gloom, doom, despair and woe you want; but as for me I am living the abundant life our Lord promised. I am blessed, happy and healthy! I am a child of the King, an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ! I am looking for my Lord to return one day. I have made up my mind to **BE READY** and I hope you have also.

Don’t allow the prophets of doom destroy your hopes and dreams. Don’t let them lead you down the road of fear and unbelief.

Allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. He will never take you down the wrong path. If you truly believe the Word of God, then I believe you will rejoice in this familiar scripture, “*And we know that all things work together for good*

*to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” [Romans 8:28]*

All things! Yes, all things will work to your good. Trust God!

The church of God and our country has reached a great “Turning Point”. I believe we have a window of opportunity to minister the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. His Gospel is the Gospel of Grace, not a gospel of doom and despair.

Yes, one day, Jesus will be revealed from Heaven. The world will end as we know it. But, we are promised new heavens and a new earth.

In the past people were comforted when they read God’s Word. I still am! Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* [St. John 14:27]

God said, “Don’t be troubled and don’t be afraid”! Let God’s Word encourage you my friends!

In closing, I want to share with you a few of my favorite scriptures that have given me great comfort and encouragement. I hope they will you also. (**Bold** emphasis is mine):

*The LORD is my shepherd; **I shall not want.** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. **He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.** [Psalms 23:1-6]*

*Psalms 27:1 **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?***

*Psalms 34:7-8 **The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.***

*O taste and see that the LORD is good: **blessed is the man that trusteth in him.***

*Psalms 34:9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: **for there is no want to them that fear him.***

*Psalms 46:2 **Therefore will not we fear,** though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;*

*Psalms 56:4 In God I will praise his word, **in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.***

*Psalms 91:5 **Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;***

*Psalms 91:6 **Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.***

*Proverbs 3:25 **Be not afraid of sudden fear,** neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.*

*Proverbs 29:25 **The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.***

*Job 5:21-22 **Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction** when it cometh.*

***At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid** of the beasts of the earth.*

*2Timothy 1:7 **For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.***

*1John 4:18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:** because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

*1Thessalonians 5:9 **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.***

No matter what the church may face in the future our God has assured us with an abundance of great promises that we can trust in. He has promised to allow no more to come upon us than we can bear. I am confident that in our lifetime; if we should face the mark of the beast, famine, pestilence, the Antichrist himself, persecutions or tribulations, God will keep us from falling. *“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” [Jude 1:24]*

# DID YOU KNOW THIS?

From The History Channel:

## Constantine Decrees "Sun-Day" as Day of Rest

On March 7, in the year 321, Constantine decreed "the day of the sun" as a day of rest.

Roman Emperor Constantine I, known in history as Constantine the Great, may be considered one of the most influential rulers of antiquity, and can claim the greatest impact on modern society of any Roman leader. For it was Constantine who was instrumental in converting the Roman Empire to Christianity and who therefore shaped the cultural and religious destiny of Europe and beyond.

His adoption of the Christian faith during his thirty-year reign as Emperor is shrouded in mystery. He did not declare himself a Christian until a relatively advanced age, and was supposedly only baptized on his deathbed. But his leadership was defined by a gradual process of accommodating and promoting the religion that had for so long been oppressed.

In 313, Constantine made a hugely significant pronouncement, in the Edict of Milan, that stated citizens should be allowed to practice the religion of their choice, and specifically banned the subjugation of Christian worshippers. The announcement was backed up by direct action, as the Roman government returned property to the Church that had been confiscated under previous regimes.

From this point on, Constantine became a great patron of the Church, diverting vast sums to church-building projects and defending the rights of Christians. Although the Roman Empire continued to be dominated by polytheist tradition for many years, the hegemony of polytheism was challenged, enabling the Christian faith to gain a foothold, and eventually leading to the supremacy of the Christian faith over polytheism.

The gradual process towards Christian tradition and ritual was underscored in 321, when, on the 7th of March, Constantine decreed that dies Solis, or "the day of the sun," should be observed as a universal day of rest. The pious observance of the Sabbath was important in expressing thanks for God's toil, and showed deference to the claim that God rested on the seventh day of the Creation.

The decree was far-reaching, stating that numerous activities should be avoided on Sunday. Merchants were forbidden to trade, and administrative establishments were closed, apart from those that dealt with the freeing of slaves. Farmers alone were permitted to continue working on the Sabbath, in recognition that some farm activity was impossible to defer.

Constantine chose Sunday to be the day for Christian worship as it already enjoyed special status in the Roman week. Named after the Pagan Sun God Invictus, Sunday had become the day when wages were traditionally paid to workers, leading it to be seen as a day of celebration and thanks. In corresponding the Christian Sabbath with an already established day of rest, Constantine ensured that his decree would be accepted swiftly and harmoniously.

In all major Christian denominations, Sunday continues to be observed as a holy day, remaining the day of choice for church attendance. For other religions the Sabbath falls on other days of the week, and for many, Sundays are seen as normal working days.

**Now you know why you go to church on Sunday instead of Saturday. By the Authority of Constantine and the Roman Catholic Church!**

**Get Ready! More Unknown Truths Coming! Get ready for more tid-bits of Truth concerning Christmas, Easter, Halloween. etc.**