

Age of the Antichrist

ARE WE THERE YET?



STEVE MAGILL

**THE AGE OF THE ANTICHRIST
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Published by *AgeofAntichrist.com*

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Scripture quotations are from the King James Version unless otherwise noted. Author replaced some old English words with modern English, such as thee, thou, didst, etc.

Printed in the United States
by CreateSpace

ISBN-13: 978-1979354103

ISBN-10: 1979354103

“But take ye heed: behold,
I have foretold you
all things.”
(Mark 13:23)

Dedicated to my daughter, Kellie,
and my grandmothers, Elva & Thelma,
who now experiences the hope
I press forward to gain

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

“LOOK AT ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP.”

THE VOICE WAS ANGRY...DESPERATE...COMING FROM WITHIN ME. I WAS FEARFUL, NOT QUITE UNDERSTANDING what was happening, yet knowing that I was in a life and death struggle with this voice within my head. It was more than just a voice; there was something very physical, very personal about this battle taking place within me.

What would I have to give up? It didn't matter. The fact that I was in this struggle made me realize that my decision to commit my life to Jesus on that early morning of December 1, 1976, proved that Jesus was real and what the Bible said about Him was true.

I didn't know what to do. I felt very much alone and afraid as I climbed into my bed, covered my head, and did the only thing I had been taught throughout childhood to do—call upon Jesus. “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,” I thought, then vocalized. The struggle of wills became more intense. My desperation

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became more desperate. I kept calling, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” After what felt to be a lengthy battle, I felt something on my feet. Peering over my covers as I had done as a child, uncertain of what I might see, I cried out, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus”...then again, over and over, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.”

Fear held me. I lay motionless, glaring for but a second or two at the source of my battle sitting on my feet. As quickly as I saw it, it disappeared. It was the demon that was in me filled with anger and bitterness. I cried out again, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.” It was then that peace and an overwhelming comfort penetrated every cell of my body. I smiled. I laughed. I experienced love. Jesus came. Jesus filled me with His Spirit and my life changed. Who I was prior to this early morning battle had disappeared. I was now on a journey from which, to this day, I have not turned back.

CHANGES

With this change of spirit also came many changes in my understanding of life and truth. One of these had to do with how the world was not moving toward bigger and better things, but to its end. Realizing that the end would dissolve humanity into an eternity of either God’s kingdom or the lake of fire spurred me to encourage others to repent and turn toward Christ. A Scripture I’ve embraced since the early days of receiving Christ’s love was Mark 1:15. This Scripture let me know that the world is moving toward its end, God’s kingdom will replace our present world, and we need to repent and believe the message Jesus taught to prepare for eternity. My number one focus was now to encourage others

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to repent and prepare for Christ's return...that would change in 2005.

In 2005, twenty-nine years after committing my life to Christ, I experienced a very personal, knife-cutting side of the last days as I understood that the church would enter great apostasy and deception, where most claiming the name of Christ would have an image of being a Christian without the power of the Holy Spirit to actually be Christian. I've taught and preached this many times, but the reality of it all took on a new depth, a new intensity. This concept cut me deep as I realized that a person does not live in apostasy and deception knowing they have been deceived.

I began to question who I was as a Christian, whether I was a true Christian, who and what I was as a pastor, and was I really prepared to stand eyeball to eyeball with the God who created me? Certain Scriptures such as 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 2 Timothy 3:5, and Revelation chapters 2 and 3 would burn within me, unsettling the Christianity I had grown up with. Each of these Scriptures had to do with Christians thinking they were Christian when they were not Christian at all. Eventually I made changes which included stepping down from my position as a "professional pastor"¹ in 2008 to become a "normal," everyday Christian. This repentance was equivalent to my initial repentance over forty years ago. Forty years ago, I gave up sin; in 2008 I gave up everything I thought I knew about Christianity and the church.

After this change, I began to see an urgent side of the last days (2008 to the present). I realized, like never before,

¹ "Professional" is used in the sense that I worked in a denomination full-time, receiving from them a pay check, benefits, perks, retirement, etc.

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that if I live a natural and long life, my eyes will see the Antichrist and experience the earth's last seven years. With this understanding, my focus shifted to helping others understand where we are on the prophetic timeline. Scriptures, such as Daniel 11:33 and Revelation 10:10-11, now spurs me on with their encouragement to teach prophecy to many.

Also spurring me on were the many conversations I've had about the last days and comments such as the one that Ron made:² "That's why Jesus came, right? To tell us about these things so we will know without a doubt?"

Ron was typical of so many I've discussed the last days with. He was not lacking knowledge of the events of these days: apostasy, the Antichrist, the great tribulation, the return of Christ. His pressing issue was: "Since Jesus came to tell us about the last days, gave us events to look for, and told us to be ready...then we should be able to know where we are, and whether we are there yet, right?"

Though Ron knew the events of the last days, he didn't know how to organize them into a roadmap to give assurance of where he was on the prophetic timeline. How was he to know, especially with all the contradicting teachings and books on the last days?

My goal in this book is to lay the foundation for understanding last day events through the lens of the prophetic/historical timelines outlined in the books of Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation.

² Ron is not his real name. The quotes are typical of numerous conversations I've had with others.

Are We There Yet?

Understanding Prophecy

A SEARCH OF THE INTERNET WILL BRING UP INNUMERABLE ARTICLES ABOUT THE LAST DAYS. IT APPEARS EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN VERSION OF HOW things will take place. What all these theories and postulating indicate is that there is not one foundation from which the theories originate. If there were, there would not be so many contradicting views concerning the last days. Somewhere along the way, we have moved past the “one mind and one doctrine” of the early church.³

This is to be expected in our age of apostasy and deception, since the Devil is the author of confusion and he is fulfilling his job description with excellence. One of his great achievements has been the dividing of the church into factions, called denominations, with most claiming to be the

³ Acts 4:32; Philippians 1:27

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true guardians of Christianity. This lack of unity is no doubt one of the reasons many believe their opinion concerning the things of God are valid, just because it is *their* opinion. The difficulty is that all opinions and theories are not valid; to think otherwise is to throw aside absolute truth. This division of thought is contrary to Jesus' statement, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."⁴ If we can know the truth, why do we have so many "truths" that create divisions among those who claim the name of Christ? It appears we have departed from the One who leads into all truth, the Holy Spirit.⁵ Our departure from the Holy Spirit will be looked at later in this chapter.

This division of truth has also moved us from understanding the truth of the last days. Since the events of the last days have to do with nations and political events, we must ask if there is a timeline of nations revealed in Scripture to move us through the last days. The unequivocal answer is yes. In the books of Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation we have measurable and dated timelines which move us through the last days to the return of Christ so we are able to confidently answer the question, "Are we there yet?"

MUST BE OBSERVABLE

There are two other reasons why prophetic events are not understood. The first is because the events of prophecy must be observable before they can be known. The second is

⁴ John 8:32

⁵ John 16:13

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the lack of or disregard of the Holy Spirit's guidance who gives this understanding.

Concerning the first reason, after Daniel was given his vision, he was then told:

“But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”⁶

This statement is clear that understanding will not be given until the end times are here. We will know we are at the end when these two events are observable, everyday events.

These two events will set the stage for the time of trouble that the two angels told Daniel would take place and last for three and a half years,⁷ taking place when the Antichrist is on the scene. This is the time when God's anger toward Israel will be completed.⁸ This is speaking of the future Antichrist who will scatter and cause great persecution upon God's people. In other words, the end will not take place until the Antichrist unleashes the great tribulation.

Daniel heard what must have been overwhelming to him. He wanted to know when these things would take place and asked the angels: “What shall be the end of these things?”⁹ Daniel was told to go back to his day-to-day

6 Daniel 12:4

7 Daniel 12:1-7

8 Daniel 12:7b

9 Daniel 12:8

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activities. This knowledge would not be given since the vision would be closed and sealed until the generation in which

End of this sample of
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