

Session 1

Can we know? Should we know? How do we know? – Misconceptions –

1. **Misconception 1: We cannot know the generation that Jesus is returning in.**

- a. While it is true that we cannot know the exact day and hour of Jesus' return (Matt. 24:36), we certainly can know the generation that would see Jesus' Second Coming.
- b. Jesus states clearly that the generation of Jesus' return would understand the conditions and events surrounding His return (Matt. 24:32–35).
- c. Jesus sternly rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matt. 16:1–4 when they did not pay attention to the times and seasons. Jesus also mourned over His people when they did not take heed of the time of His appearing (Lk. 19:41–44).
- d. Paul taught that the Church should know the times and seasons related to Jesus' Second Coming (1 Thess. 5:1–6)
- e. Compared to His first coming, there is more prophetic evidence about Jesus' Second Coming than any other prophetic event in the Bible. The End Times is the most written-about subject in all of Scripture. There are over 150 chapters in the Bible in which the majority of the chapter is about the End Times.
- f. If the generation of Jesus' first coming was rebuked for not discerning the significance of their generation, how much more responsible are we to know about the End Times since so much has been spelled out in Scripture for us?

2. **Misconception 2: The End Times are too complicated and reserved only for theologians or biblical scholars.**

- a. Matthew 24 – 25, commonly known as the Olivet discourse, was one of Jesus' final teachings to His disciples.
- b. Jesus' disciples were previously fishermen by occupation and they certainly did not attend seminary nor were they highly educated like the Pharisees and Sadducees. Yet, Jesus taught them about the End Times for them to understand and grasp.

- c. God has always intended the Bible to be written for all of humanity to understand — majority of whom have been largely uneducated throughout history. God's Word, and certainly His teaching on the End Times, is not reserved only for an elite group of people such as theologians and scholars.
 - d. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will help us and give revelation to all who would press in for understanding (Col. 1:9, Jn. 16:1–15).
3. **Misconception 3: Every generation believed they were the last generation.**
- a. It is a common perception by us today that most of the previous generations believed they were living in the End Times.
 - b. However, this is not true. While it is true that a very small group (less than one percent) of God's people in every generation might have thought they were at the end, it was not a majority of His people.
 - c. There are only two generations so far in which there has been a universal expectation among God's people across the world that Jesus would return in their lifetime — the generation of the first Apostles (until AD. 70) and our generation.
4. **Misconception 4: Jesus can return at any time.**
- a. Across the 150 chapters of the End Times, it is clearly revealed that there are certain things that must take place before the return of Jesus.
 - b. If we piece together the End-Time timeline based on these chapters, we will be able to see the sequence of specific events and trends that will take place before Jesus returns.
 - c. It would be erroneous to say in our current point in human history that, "Jesus could return anytime now." In fact, based on the 150 chapters, we can say for certain that Jesus will not return tomorrow or in the next seven years.
5. **Misconception 5: The Church will be raptured before the Great Tribulation.**
- a. It is easier to prove from Scripture that the Church will be around during the Great Tribulation. The book of Daniel, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation give us insight into this. (We will talk more about this in subsequent sessions.)
 - b. Instead of being raptured away, Jesus' Bride will partner with Him in this very important time of history at the very end of this age. The End Times is the Church's finest hour where miracles will occur and supernatural prophetic

direction will be released in the midst of the greatest turmoil that will hit the face of the earth.