

THEN THE END SHALL COME

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations, and

THEN THE END SHALL COME," Mt 26:14

A wise man looks to the end of things. What's the result of what we do? Will our outcome of this life be like the rich man of Luke 12? He had so much that he thought he needed to build new barns to hold them all. After construction, he said, "**Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat drink and be merry,"** v 19.

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul will be required of you; and who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God," Lk 2:20.

WHAT IS IT THAT ENDS, anyway? Thayer's Lexicon of the New Testament, says the *Gk* word, *telos* means: "*A termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be.*" Thayer states that in Greek writings, it is always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time.

We read of many ENDS in Scripture. Our Headline text of Matthew 24:14 says an END comes when the gospel is preached to all nations. This END deals with this time period. It means the kingdom will be set up on earth. No longer will the kingdom be preached, but its establishment on earth will be in force. Jesus will sit on David's throne in the city of Jerusalem at this END.

These words were spoken to Joseph and Mary by Gabriel. "**And, behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He shall rule over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no END,"** Luke 1:31-33.

The END has ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES for everyone. The Bible speaks of ETERNAL life and ETERNAL death when the END comes.

Romans 6:21 says, "**The wages of sin is DEATH, but the free gift of God is ETERNAL life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

The END of our faith brings, "**The salvation of our souls (lives),"** 1st Peter 1:9. Our spirits were saved at Calvary, our bodies will be saved in the resurrection; but then, in the Kingdom, the man of faith - in body, soul and spirit, shall be with God, forever and ever.

The END of this present dispensation brings the kingdom on earth. Here, Jesus said, "**And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the END, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS,"** Rev 2:26.

There is also an END of God's week; which is 7000 years long. After the last 1000 years on earth of the Millennium Kingdom, Jesus turns the world over to His Father.

I can't help it, but when I take this passage of Scripture into my heart, CHILLS COVER MY BODY. What love, what mercy and what compassion our God had sending His Son to save man. And in the END, Jesus steps off the throne, having fulfilled the Father's will. He walks with us, as men, forever more. There is no END to His love.

"Then comes the END, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and authority and power,"

1st Corinthians 15:24.

THE ORDER IS: Christ, the firstfruits and those at His coming. He reigns until all enemies fall to Him (come under His feet). Death is the last enemy. It is destroyed WHEN "all things are put in subjection" to Him.

Clearly, we must see Jesus as the beginning and the END; which means that there can never be an END; for He ever lives. "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the END," Revelation 22:13.

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