



# COUNTDOWN TO THE APOCALYPSE

HOW SHOULD WE NOW LIVE?

1 Chronicles 12:32

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**Introduction:** Today as we conclude our series *Countdown To The Apocalypse*, we are going to answer the all-important question, "So what? What difference should the certain return of Jesus Christ make in my life today?"

I. The Promise Of Jesus: "I Will Come Again"

A. His Coming Is **Certain** (John 14:3; Acts 1:11)

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Acts 1:11 "...Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

B. His Coming Is **Soon** (Romans 13:11-12a)

Romans 13:11-12a "<sup>11</sup>And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. <sup>12a</sup>The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand."

II. How We Are To Live In The Last Days

A. As People of **Hope** (Psalm 39:7; Romans 15:13)



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Psalms 39:7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in Thee."

Romans 15:13 "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

### B. As People of **Insight** (1 Chronicles 12:32a)

1 Chronicles 12:32a "...the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do..."

1. They understand the **times**.
2. They know what the people of God should **do**.

Matthew 5:13-14 <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden."

### C. As People of **Courage**

## III. Where Are We On God's Timetable?

### A. Look at the World Situation

1. There is a clear **pattern** of events laid out in the Bible concerning the last days.
2. There is an amazing **similarity** between our world and world the Bible describes at the end of time.
3. If that is true, then we may indeed be the **generation** to experience the Rapture of the Church.



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4. Every sign points in one **direction** – it won't be long now.

- B. Look at the Bible (2 Peter 3:3-10)

2 Peter 3:3-10 “<sup>3</sup>Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup>and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.’ <sup>5</sup>For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup>through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup>But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>8</sup>But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

1. The Lord's return is **certain** because God promised it.
2. The Lord's return will usher in a day of **judgment** for the ungodly.
3. The Lord's return is **delayed** to give people a chance to trust in Christ.

#### IV. How You Can Prepare For The Apocalypse

Romans 5:1 “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

Conclusion