



COUNTDOWN ^{TO} THE APOCALYPSE

THE NEW MORAL (DIS)ORDER

2 Timothy 3:1-5

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Introduction: Perhaps you've heard someone say, "We are living in terrible times!" The phrase "terrible times" is more than a trite generality but is found in Scripture and has a very specific connection to the return of Jesus Christ. Today we will explore what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote about "terrible times" that will serve as a prelude to the return of Jesus Christ.

I. The Devolution Of Culture

A. Spiritual

B. The Family

C. Violence



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II. What God Says About Marriage

A. The Creation of Man and Woman (Genesis 1:26-28)

Genesis 1:26-28 “²⁶Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ ²⁷And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

1. Man is created in the **image** of God (Genesis 1:27)

Genesis 1:27 “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

1 Corinthians 15:39 “All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.”

2. God separated mankind into two categories: **male** and **female** (Genesis 1:27b)

Genesis 1:27b “...He created him; male and female He created them.”

B. The Differences Between Men and Women

Genesis 1:27 “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”



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1. The prohibition against homosexual behavior
(Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27)

Leviticus 18:22 "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination."

Leviticus 20:13 "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."

Romans 1:26-27 "²⁶For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

1 Timothy 1:8-10 "⁸But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching."

2. The prohibition against homosexual "marriage"

Matthew 19:4-6 "⁴And He answered and said, 'Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,' ⁵and said, 'FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH? ⁶Consequently, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.'"



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III. What God Says About Abortion

A. Fifty-four Million ... and Counting

B. God's View of the Unborn (Psalm 139:1-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41, 44)

Psalm 139:13-16 ¹³For Thou didst form my inward parts; thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."

Jeremiah 1:4-5a "Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you...'"

Luke 1:41,44 ⁴¹And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy."

C. God's Hatred of Violence Toward Children (Jeremiah 32:35; 32:28-29)

Jeremiah 32:35 "And they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

Jeremiah 32:28-29 ²⁸Therefore thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I am about to give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans and into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will take it. ²⁹The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city will enter and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses where people have offered incense to Baal on their roofs and poured out drink offerings to other gods to provoke Me to anger.'"



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D. Jesus' Love for Children (Mark 10:13-16)

Mark 10:13-16 ¹³And they were bringing children to Him, so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, 'Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all.' ¹⁶And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them."

1. When we honor a child, we honor **Jesus**. (Matthew 18:5)

Matthew 18:5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;"

2. When we deliberately **harm** a child, we face an unspeakable judgment. (Matthew 18:6)

Matthew 18:6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea."

IV. "Terrible Times" In The "Last Days" (2 Timothy 3:1)

2 Timothy 3:1 (NIV) "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days."

Daniel 7:25a "And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law..."

Conclusion