

## **A Bible-Based Eschatological Position INCLUDES Elements Of Chronology** ( Handout 105 )

Some say: “I am tired of all the theological backbiting when the topic of *end times* is addressed. Can’t we simply discuss other things? Or if we can’t stay away from this most controversial hot button, can we at least focus on end-time Bible THEMES that are manifesting in present culture today?” I move on to ask this question: Have **you** ever been confronted by this type of appeal?

While I am *hearing [some of these appeals are expressed in written format]* this type of appeal on a more regular basis, there are others who passionately suggest, almost demand, we stay away from end-time discussion **all together**. “After all, it’s most divisive!” they say.

Once again, in response, we ask this all-important question: How would the Word of God *speak to/into* the appeals above?

I shouldn’t have to remind folks that a high percentage of data in the Bible is prophetic. This includes the sharing of insight that is yet future to our day. IF one were to allow God to speak (through His Word), we immediately find this: He has graciously revealed some of the end time matters due to their impact. Some consequences of end-time issues take one into the eternal – yes, eternal consequences. Many of the pressing events of the *end of days* bring dangerous fallout for those of mankind who are still alive on the earth. Our Lord’s protective care for His sheep (and for those who have not yet accepted the provision of the Lamb of God) is tied to His persistent love for man. Once again, He cares enough to offer insight for those who would be willing to listen. Good thing!

But the reality of the abundance of His end-time Counsel (to cite one reason: due to our being in eternal *harm’s way* because of the horrific evils of our day) is not the only blessing God bestows. It’s wise to accept / yield to the clear nature or dynamic of His full revelation. Let me explain ...

God’s Word clearly offers BOTH **thematic** AND **chronological** end-time insight. *As a result*, one does not need to debate the obvious reality that He informs about both *end of days* themes and chronology. It’s clear He does. Another *as a result* is this: It is our opportunity to **respond rightly** to His kind and generous revelation by accepting both thematic and chronological Counsel. Just because some information provided is chronological in nature in no way justifies rejecting the insight due to it possibly sparking controversy. Yet, some vehemently declare chronological end-time address is dark because it contributes to unrest – it sows, God forbid!, discord among the brethren. My friends, mark those who bring imbalanced, possibly even partial-truth appeals along these lines. “Why?” one may ask. Because God’s Word does indeed include the information ... important chronological information. May we reject those who would call for the prohibition of end-time discussion, for some suggest it brings dark division when, in fact, it usually does not. They appeal we talk about other more important things when in reality this topic of the *end of days* is one of the most pressing (crucial!!) topics of our day! Yes, we surely need to be Christ-like when dialogue on this topic occurs. This is essential. What am I saying in all this? We cannot throw the baby (of eschatological discussion) out with the bath water (the dirty, divisive fruit which, on occasion, is produced by some who dishonor respectful communication of diverse perspective).

Our application appeal: Let’s be willing to allow the Word of God to speak to our day. Let’s pick it up – the Bible – read it and then go on to heed the actual data therein – also noting those who would, through false *interpretative* appeal, try to distort the explicit data therein.