

*“Stepping Stones to the End”*

**Matthew 24:1-14**

# Prophetic Foreshortening

*“The prophets were little interested in chronology, and the future was always viewed as imminent... the Old Testament prophets blended the near and the distant perspectives so as to form a single canvas. Biblical prophecy is not primarily three dimensional but two; it has height and breadth but is little concerned about depth, i.e. the chronology of future events... the distant is viewed through the transparency of the immediate.”*

- George Ladd



## **Acts 1:6**

So, when they had come together, they began asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time that You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

## **Matthew 19:28**

And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

## **Titus 3:5**

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

# **I. The Olivet Discourse**

## ***A. A Warning***

## ***B. Harbingers of the End***

- 1. International Conflict**
- 2. Natural Disasters**
- 3. Persecution of Believers**

## **John 15:18-20**

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you as well; if they followed My word, they will follow yours also



## **2020 World Watch List**

- Every day 8 Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith.
- Every week 182 churches or Christian buildings are attacked.
- Every month, 309 Christians are imprisoned unjustly

# **I. The Olivet Discourse**

## ***A. A Warning***

## ***B. Harbingers of the End***

- 1. International Conflict**
- 2. Natural Disasters**
- 3. Persecution of Believers**
- 4. Apostasy**
- 5. False Prophets**
- 6. Lawlessness**

## **C. A Gracious Promise**

## **Romans 5:3-5**

And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us

“They whom God hath accepted in his beloved, effectively called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”

- Westminster Confession of Faith

# **I. The Olivet Discourse**

## ***A. A Warning***

## ***B. Harbingers of the End***

**1. International Conflict**

**2. Natural Disasters**

**3. Persecution of Believers**

**4. Apostasy**

**5. False Prophets**

**6. Lawlessness**

## **C. A Gracious Promise**

## **D. First Sign of End of Age**

## **A People Group**

*"a significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation, etc., or combinations of these."*

## **Unreached People Group**

*"a people group within which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group."*

## 2 Peter 3:10-12

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 discovered. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!



"Our world isn't a very good amusement park. No, it's a broken place groaning for redemption. Here is meant to make us long for forever. Here is meant to prepare us for eternity."

