



## ***End Times Listening Comprehension Disorder***

*“As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you...See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end...these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs...many will fall away...Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many...most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved...For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect...do not believe them...For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”*

*–Matthew 24:3-44*

*Yes, I’ve greatly redacted 42 verses, and no, I am not “proof-texting” or trying to get Scripture to say something it isn’t. I’ve presented these highlights as an example of the continuing problem of human beings’ poor reading and listening comprehension skills.*

Why is it that we don’t give the most attention to what Jesus, Paul, Peter, et al spend the most time talking about regarding the End Times: False prophets, false teaching, great apostasy, mass deception. If we look at everything conveyed by Jesus and His apostles regarding the signs of the Last Days, it overwhelmingly contains more instructions about the spiritual decline and doctrinal deception to come not just of the world at large, but within the church itself, than the “fireworks”. (Signs and wonders.)

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Yes, there's seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls, and a host of great "signs" such as horrific hailstorms, all the nations gathered for battle, yada-yada-yada-yada; but throughout **ALL** of Scripture, it's very clear that such signs are closely associated with **judgment**. When you witness them, it's too late. (Those inside Jericho came to a very powerful belief in God—much too late.) They signal an end to all the years prior in which God exhausts every opportunity for reconciliation with Him—the **ONLY** way of escaping judgment. If I'm truly His follower and looking at things with His heart, I don't **ever** want to see "signs", I want to see spiritual renewal.

This is precisely what we're being warned about, that in the Last Days there will be such spiritual deception, such wholesale dilution of the Truth of God's Word that **EVERYONE**—Christian or not—will see the signs unfold when it's too late, when we've allowed spiritual blindness to overtake us through the myriad of false teachers, false prophets, and apostasy.

The apostle Paul says:

*"Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that **you not be quickly shaken** from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first**, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,"*

*–2 Thessalonians 2:1-3*

*"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*

*–1 Timothy 4:1-3*

The apostle Peter says:

*"But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will also be **false teachers** among you, **who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master** who bought them,*

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*bringing swift destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and **because of them the way of the truth will be maligned**; and in their greed **they will exploit you with false words**; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”*

*–2 Peter 2:1-3*

The apostle John says:

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because **many false prophets have gone out into the world**. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and **every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist**, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”*

*–1 John 4:1-3*

This is why the best tool, the best aid to our faith, the one thing that provides each and every one of us with the wisdom, discernment, and knowledge to identify and navigate through the false prophets and false doctrines is the Word of God. It's just as Jesus prayed on our behalf:

*“But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.**”*

*--John 17:13*

It's the daily devotion and consistent commitment to allowing God's Word to take precedence in our life that will provide not just the correct interpretation of the signs of the times, but the more important issue of being His servant during same.

In His Love,

[Servant@LogosWalk.com](mailto:Servant@LogosWalk.com)

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