



Understanding End-Time Events



Gary Hargrave

Too often preaching about end-time events is a focus on what satan is doing rather than what God is doing. But the end-time is about the return of Yeshua (Jesus). It is about His presence coming and His appearings in the earth. That to me is what we should focus on if we are going to talk about end-time events. So, rather than dig into all the negative prophecies, I want to lay out some points that I believe will give us a clearer understanding of the end-time.



The Bible Is Centered on Christ

The first point is that the Bible is centered on Christ, not on the antichrist or satan or what they are doing. The end-time is all about the Kingdom of God and Christ's return. It is about what God is doing to finalize His plan. But when you hear sermons about the end-time you would think that these events are all being initiated by the devil or the beast or the antichrist. God forbid! The book of Revelation is called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1). It is not the revelation of the antichrist. It is not the revelation of the beast. It is not the revelation of the false prophet. If you are reading it and getting those things, go back and read it again until all you see is Christ and those other things fade into insignificance. You cannot read the Bible without knowing it is about God, about His Kingdom, and about Christ doing what He said He will do to bring His Kingdom to this earth and rule and reign with His people. When Yeshua talked about the end-time, He did not say, "When you see all these negative things happening, focus on them, try to understand them, get lost in them." No! He said, "Straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28). There is a salvation that we are waiting for. There is a level of fulfillment of what Christ accomplished on the cross that we are now waiting to see manifested.



The Bible Is About God's Covenant with Israel

Related to the central focus on Christ, the Bible is centered around God's covenant with Israel that will be fulfilled. This all takes place in specific geographic locations, the center of which is Jerusalem. Therefore, the Bible is Jerusalem-centric. Next to that it is Israel-centric. Do you want to read the Bible to find out what happens to America in the end-time? Well, the Bible is not about America. It is about Jerusalem and Israel and the Middle East. If you want to know what happens with America in the end-time, read God's covenant with Abraham. God made a promise to Abraham: "I'll bless those that bless you. I'll curse those who curse you" (see Genesis 12:3). What happens to America, as well as to every other nation, depends on what we do to Israel because the nation that blesses Israel will be blessed, and the nation that curses Israel will be cursed. In that sense the Bible gives us the prophetic guidelines for how God will relate to every nation on the face of the earth.

Never forget that Christianity in the Gentile nations has a history of anti-Semitism. Christianity was very involved in creating the mentality in Europe that led to the Holocaust. At the very least, Christians did nothing to stop it from happening. So Christianity does not have a history of blessing Israel or the Jewish people. We as Christians, in whatever nation we abide, have some homework to do; because if we do not get rid of anti-Semitism and find the way to bless Israel and be on the right side of these covenants, we will find ourselves under God's curse. If you love God then you will love His people. And whether you accept it or not, they were God's people prior to us as Gentiles being His people, and they are still His people. We are only His people because we were grafted into them (Romans 11:16-18). This should be a wakeup call to all Christians everywhere. There should be no question about where we stand, where our love is, and what our theology is regarding Israel and the Jewish people.



In the Last Days Time Will Change

We are used to time moving at a certain pace as things develop over a span of time. But as we get into the time of the end, that changes. And the place where time begins to be different is with Israel.

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?
Can a land be born in one day?
Can a nation be brought forth all at once?
As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.

ISAIAH 66:8

We are already deep into the fulfillment of that prophecy because the nation of Israel was literally born in one day in 1948. We saw another manifestation of this principle in 1967 when Israel took the Temple Mount in six days. Another example of this time change is from Revelation 18:8–10. Babylon is destroyed in a day. We get accustomed to everything taking a long time, but those watching Babylon fall saw her judgment happen in one hour. We have to get out of our complacency. We cannot depend on the idea that we have a lot of time before something happens because in one day, in one hour, the world's situation can change. That is what happened with the five foolish virgins. In one moment they missed out because the bridegroom came right when they were away scrambling to get prepared (Matthew 25:8–10).

Clearly, we can miss the most important aspects of the end-time by being unprepared, and one of the ways we are unprepared is by being accustomed to having a lot of time. So you cannot become passive. You cannot predict end-time events based on the natural flow of time, the natural flow of how things work. Many Christians are in a huff because the Jews do not believe in Jesus. Get over it. They are saved by a covenant. And according to Zechariah 3:9 God will remove their iniquity in one day. So do not get locked into anything regarding Israel or the Jewish people. If you do, you will be left in the dust, holding on to something that will get you into trouble.



End-Time Manifestations Will Not Be Limited to Individuals

The outpourings of the past have produced great individual ministries, but the end-time outpouring will be manifested through companies of people rather than through individuals. Yeshua is no longer limited to the flesh of one individual, and the end-time outpouring of the Holy Spirit will have the greatest expression of Christ moving in His corporate Body. All the outpourings we have seen were signs to us that God had something greater in store. Isaiah prophesied that a new thing would happen.

“You have heard; look at all this.
And you, will you not declare it?
I proclaim to you new things from this time,
Even hidden things which you have not known.
They are created now and not long ago;
And before today you have not heard them,
So that you will not say, ‘Behold, I knew them.’”

ISAIAH 48:6-7

If we think we know what God is going to do, we know nothing as we ought to know it (1 Corinthians 8:2). Not only will God change time so that things will happen suddenly when we do not expect them, but He will do things that we never thought of before. And one of the prophecies of the end-time is something that many people miss. It has been prophetically revealed that at the time of His return, God will bring us into oneness. We read it in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, “Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.” We see here that included in the revelation of the Lord is our gathering together, and today we see that oneness beginning to happen in the Body of Christ. It is one of the most important things God will do in the end-time because when the Body of Christ is one, the world will know that God sent Christ as our Savior (John 17:21). Oneness then brings the release of the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah that brings the revelation of salvation to the world.



The Lord Returns with His Holy Ones

We forget sometimes that when Christ comes, He brings with Him His holy ones as Enoch prophesied (Jude 1:14). The Church invisible has been in preparation for years for the

perfection of their spirits. We know that without us they will not be made perfect, but they are being made perfect and they are being prepared to return with Him as part of the great end-time events (Hebrews 11:40, 12:22–23). Yeshua is not coming back by Himself. He is coming back with these holy ones. So if you are concerned about the odds, we could count noses. How many people does the antichrist have in his army? He probably has a lot. But how many is Christ bringing with Him? Remember the story about Elisha and his servant? The young servant panicked when he saw the king's army. "Oh, no! A whole army is coming against us and there are only two of us." Then Elijah prayed, "Lord, open the young man's eyes." When the young man's eyes were opened, he saw the hosts of God that were surrounding Elijah (2 Kings 6:15–17). We will not face the end times alone. This is not a fight that we do by ourselves. In fact, it is not our fight at all. It is Christ's final triumph over the enemy of God. But let me assure you, when He comes there will be many more who are for us than against us.



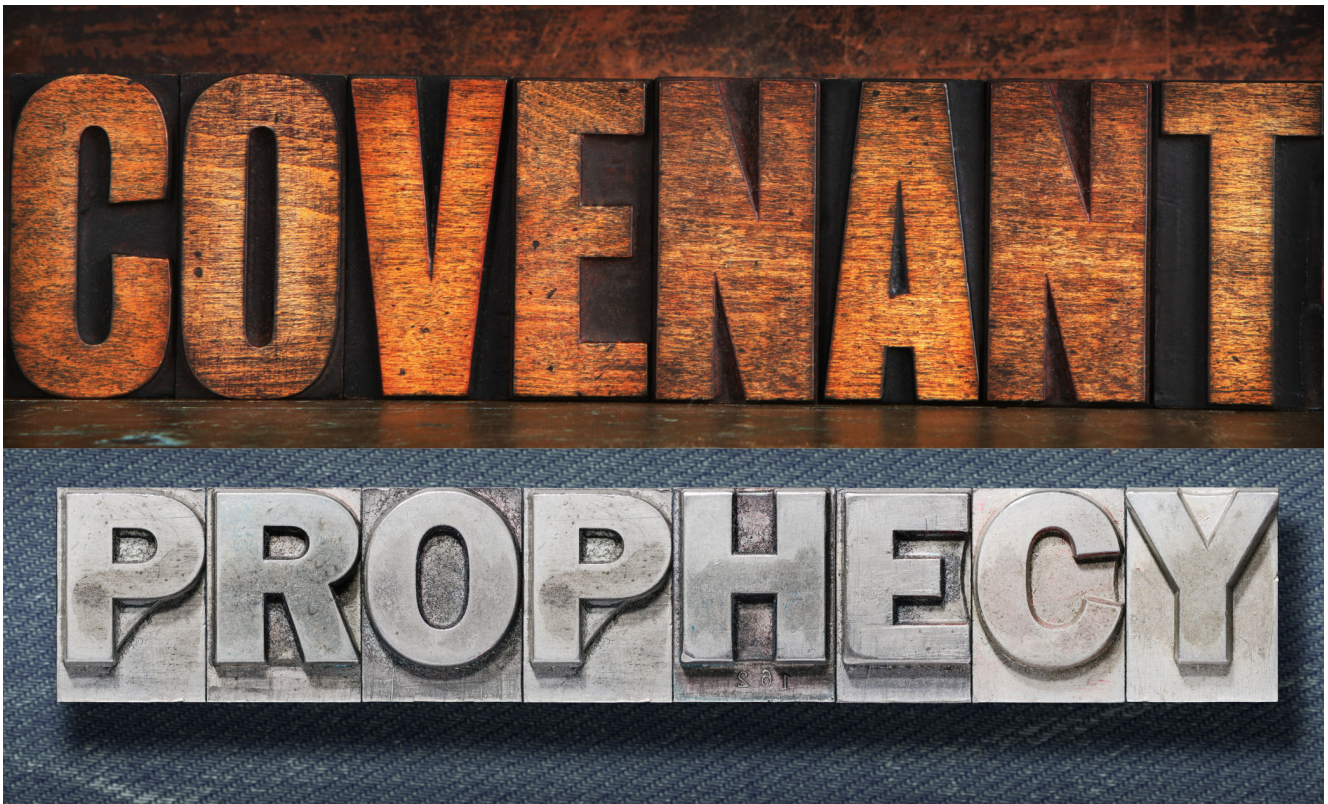
Do Not Forget About God's Love

When talking about the end-time, I think people miss the part that God's love will play. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:5, "May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ." We know that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God sacrificed Yeshua His Son because of His love, because of His drive to see mankind saved. And we have to remember that we as mankind played absolutely no part in that. It was all done because of God's love. If we say that the end-time is all about judgment, we are forgetting what God has already done through His love for mankind. You cannot rule out the fact that God in His magnificent love wants to save people, not destroy them. The whole story of the Bible is about God and His Son. And the point of that story is that God saves the whole world through His Son.



The End-Time Involves Our Intercession

Another thing that people do not consider concerning the end times is intercession. I do not think we understand how much ability we have through intercession. We have the ability to change God's mind as Moses did (Exodus 32:11–15, 33:17; Numbers 14:19–20). According to James 2:13, mercy triumphs over judgment. We can read the prophecies and say, "The end-time is just filled with judgment after judgment after judgment!" But mercy can triumph over judgment. What accomplishes that? What changes that picture? What changes it is the intercession of people with the heart of God who pray for the salvation of the world. "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3–4). Never forget that because if we forget it, we will think the point is judgment. The point is salvation, not judgment. Judgment is not something we do; it is something that those who refuse salvation do to themselves. They initiate it. We are to initiate salvation on levels never seen before. Read 1 Timothy 4:10, "For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers." So do not tell me God is not driven to see all men saved in this process. And that should be the drive of our hearts too.



A Covenant Is Different Than a Prophecy

God is obligated to fulfill His covenants. However, A prophecy can change, depending on God's mercy and love as well as the response of people to His Word. God's promises were committed to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and all of Israel by covenant. The covenants with Israel cannot fail. Furthermore, Yeshua is the seed of Abraham in that covenant. And therefore what Yeshua did as the seed of Abraham in grafting Gentiles into the covenant means that we are in a covenant relationship with God through Yeshua the Messiah. That covenant of our salvation cannot be broken. God must fulfill it. Yet when people talk about end-time events, they are mostly focused on prophecy, and unlike covenants, prophecies can change. The judgments prophesied to come upon the world and on the wicked can be expunged by people's response of repentance and crying out to God for mercy and forgiveness. We see that lesson in the book of Jonah. Jonah went to Nineveh and prophesied its judgment, but the response of the people changed that prophecy (Jonah 3:4–10).

Therefore, when looking at end-time events, ask yourself, "Is this judgment based on a prophecy or a covenant?" That is why our intercession is so important. Instead of standing before God to say, "God, we're ready for judgment. It's the end-time and they deserve it," we say, "The wicked out there are no different than I am. I'm a sinner in need of a Savior, and they are sinners in need of a Savior." But who will pray that they might be saved, that instead of judgment they might have a revelation of Christ and come to the knowledge of the love of God and receive salvation for their sins? I think that the big news of the end-time will be waves of salvation that are beyond anything we have ever seen.



The End-Time Involves the Manifestation of the Sons of God

My final point is that most people do not connect end-time events to the manifestation of the sons of God. I have never heard any of the preachers who interpret the end times mention the manifestation of the sons of God. But I think the manifestation of the sons of God is such a big deal that it is one of the things that must happen before the return of Christ. According to Romans 8:19–20, the sons of God set creation free from futility. What is freedom from futility? Creation under futility is devoid of God’s presence and life. So the sons of God, in their release, bring His presence back into the earth. They are a part of the manifestation of Christ’s return, which is the parousia, His presence (2 Thessalonians 1:10). The manifestation or revealing of the sons of God is also one of those things that can happen in an instant. As we read in Galatians 4:1–2, even though the son is an heir, he is under masters and does not have control of his inheritance until a time set by the father. That is why it could happen at any moment. God our Father could say, “Okay, here it is. Here is all authority in heaven and earth. Here is the entire inheritance given into your hands. Now move in it.” And that must happen before the sons of God can impact the events of the end-time. But you cannot forget that the sons of God must come forth and will come forth as one of the necessary elements prior to the return of Christ.

Daniel prophesied about this in Daniel 12:10, “Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.” In Joel 2:1–11, we read about a mighty people, a great army to whom the Lord utters His voice. This is an important passage because it gives the dichotomy that takes place in the end-time. For the world it is a dying age, but for the people of God it is a new day. What we see is the new day. What we march into is the new day. Behind us is devastation. We are not in the devastation, but the devastation follows. There again you have to ask, who is causing these things to happen? Does the devil cause them to happen? Does the antichrist cause them to happen? Or does God in His intervention through His people cause the end-time events to happen?



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All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of our Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He leads and coordinates study tours to Israel promoting Jewish-Christian relations.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and founded and served as the chancellor of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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