



(PROJECT) RED: Learning and Living the Words of Jesus

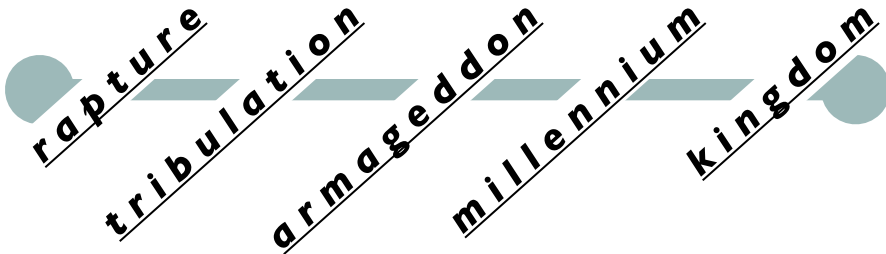
(ENDURANCE) RED

"LORD... YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE." — JOHN 6:68

Week 8 of 9

ILL: learning about the Rapture as a kid... hiding from my mom... waking up
Fascination with end times including debate with friends.

Popular Christian Thinking on the End Times



You'll be pleased to know that Jesus talks about "the end" and here is his teaching...

Signs will come before the end, but no one can**predict** it, so **prepare** now to **endure**.

ILL: Usain Bolt demolished world records; Jamaica dominated the short sprints, but the US dominated the longer races. The life of faith is not a sprint.

"NOT ONE STONE HERE WILL BE LEFT ON ANOTHER..."

Matthew 24:1-3 (p. 688) (see Ezekiel 37:21-28)

1. The earthly temple is **irrelevant** to the plan of God.2. Everything God has ever done has taken **longer** than humans **expected**.

Ge 1:1 "the beginning" -> 7 days / day 6 -> a longer story

promised son -> distant descendent / Abraham "great nation" -> 500 years later

SIGNS OF "THE BEGINNING"

Matthew 24:4-8

THE SIGNS:

Deceivers • Wars • Disasters

THE COMMAND:

Don't be **alarmed**.
avoid illustrations here!**SIGNS OF "BIRTH PANGS"**

Matthew 24:9-14

THE SIGNS:

Persecution • Apostasy • Deceivers • **Missionaries**

THE COMMAND:

Stand **firm** in **love** & **spread** the gospel.**SIGNS OF "THE END"**

Matthew 24:15-28

THE SIGNS:

Abomination • **Distress** • Deceivers

THE COMMAND:

Run away! Don't be **deceived**.**"THE COMING"**

Matthew 24:29-31

... a **cosmic, obvious, gathering**.**"NOW LEARN THIS LESSON"**

Matthew 24:32-36

THE RETURN OF JESUS IS **near**.

All the signs have happened once already // Most have happened a second time!

THE RETURN OF JESUS IS **sure**.

v. 35 – his words are sure

THE RETURN OF JESUS IS **unpredictable**.

ILL: Throwing paper balls at my study hall teacher in 7th grade.

Prepare now to endure...

Endure to the end, endure through the end, and you'll endure after the end.

PREPARE NOW TO ENDURE TO THE END.