

## FINISH LINE

- We are living in really challenging times. News is so bad, we're often numb to it.
- However, in the middle of all the bad news, Jesus has some really good news.
- **QUOTE:** *The good news that trumps the bad news is that Christ is coming soon, and heaven is so much better than this!*

## Week #1 – Look to the East

**Matthew 24:1 – 14 (NKJV)** *Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.<sup>2</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”<sup>3</sup> Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.<sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.<sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for <sup>[a]</sup>all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.<sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

**Matthew 24:32 – 34 (NKJV)** *Now learn this parable from the **FIG TREE**: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, **you know that summer is near.**<sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!<sup>34</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away till all these things take place.*

- Jesus says the fig tree putting forth leaves is symbolic that summer is near.
- Israel became a young fig tree (nation) again beginning May 14, 1948, when David Ben Gurion declared Israel to be a nation again. Immediately, 7 Arab nations marched against Israel vowing to push the Jews into the sea. Outnumbered 100 to 1, the Jews not only prevailed, but took more of Palestine than what was included in the original UN partition plan.
- **QUOTE:** *Despite the perspectives of the media or politicians, know that God has a greater plan with the conflict happening in the Middle East than what is evident to the natural eye.*

- God is up to something!! We are closer to home than we realize.

**II Timothy 3:1 (NKJV) – But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:**

- *Know This (Gr. Ginosko) – knowledge; but here it is used in the present imperative tense indicating something that MUST BE known, recognized, or acknowledged; MANDATORY INFORMATION.*
  - *Last Days (Gr. Eschatos Hemera) – eschatos points to the ultimate end of a thing, such as the last month of a year, the last week of the month, & the last day of the week. The very last of the last days.*
  - *Perilous (Gr. Chalepos) – used to describe ugly words that when spoken are hurtful & emotionally hard to bear. It's also used in literature to depict wild, vicious, uncontrollable animals that are unpredictable and dangerous. It characterizes times that are harsh, harmful, & filled with high risk.*
- 
- **Matthew 8:28 (NIV) –** *When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were SO VIOLENT that no one could pass that way.*
  - **Mark 5:1 – 5 (NKJV)** *Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.<sup>2</sup> And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an UNCLEAN SPIRIT,<sup>3</sup> who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,<sup>4</sup> because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.<sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*
  - These verses describe the climate of PERILOUS TIMES that would exist at the end of the end.
  - What should be our response?
    - **Praise God that our Redemption is Drawing Near**
    - **Pray for a Massive End Time Harvest**
    - **Pray for the Slope of Evil to Decrease**