

The Final Countdown – Rise of Falsehood

Last week we talked about the importance of having a successful BBQ, remember? And there we saw that, try as we might, it's hard for us men to please our wives, right guys? And so for some of you ladies who might have been a little discouraged at our "manly" behavior, I want to encourage you. You see, it may not seem like it at times, but we men actually know a lot about you women. That's right! And to prove my point, I came across a list of the Top 10 Things Men Know About Women. Get ready men, it's our time to shine!

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Okay, so maybe us men are just a little clueless when it comes to understanding you women. But hey men, don't feel too bad, because we're not alone. A lot of people are not only clueless on marital issues, but Biblical ones as well. Especially when it comes to prophecy. And because of this, and the fact that they do not want to give their lives to Jesus, sadly they are

running the risk of being left behind. And they will be catapulted into the seven-year Tribulation that is coming upon the whole world.

And folks, the time of the Tribulation is not a party. It's an outpouring of God's wrath upon a wicked and rebellious planet. In fact, Jesus said in **Matthew 24** that it would be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. He also said that unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race would be destroyed. But God is not only a God of wrath; He's a God of love as well. And **because He loves you and I**, He has given us many warning signs so that we would know when the Tribulation could be near and that Christ's 2nd Coming is rapidly approaching.

Therefore, to keep us from being clueless about the dangers of being left behind, we're going to continue taking a look at **The Final Countdown**. We already saw how the **#10** sign on **The Final Countdown** was **The Jewish People**. The **#9** sign was **Modern Technology** and in the last chapter we saw how the **#8** sign was none other than **Worldwide Upheaval**. And there we saw that God lovingly foretold you and I that when we see an **Increase of Earthquakes, Famines, Pestilence, and Wars** that it would be an indicator that we are in the last days.

But that's not the only signs that God has given us. The #7 sign on **The Final Countdown** is none other than **The Rise of Falsehood**. So just what are these specific prophecies being fulfilled today concerning **The Rise of Falsehood**, revealing that we could be in the last days? Well, I'm glad you asked. Let's take a look. The **1st End Time Prophecy** concerning **The Rise of Falsehood** is that there would be an **Increase of False Christs**.

Luke 21:5-8 "Some of His disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down. Teacher, they asked, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place? He replied: Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them."

According to our text there, one of the biggest and most obvious signs and **the very first thing out of Jesus' mouth** to indicate when we are in the last days is when there will be an **Increase of False Christs**. Now, throughout history we've had a few people here and there claiming to be Jesus. That's pretty commonplace. But what's **not common** is how, **in the last century alone**, there has been an explosion of people claiming to be the Messiah. For instance, one such person is the Reverend Sun Myung Moon of the moonies who has tons of followers. He not only claims to be the "messiah" and the "lord of the universe" but he has even stated that Jesus follows him.

“Jesus Christ is trying to follow me, my footsteps, all the way. He stayed in Paradise, because he did not marry. But I gave him marriage. Don’t you want to meet the wives of Buddha, Confucius and Muhammad? They sent letters of gratitude to me from the spirit world. They pledge that even if their religion disappears, they will follow me.”

Oh, but that’s not all. You could also check out the “Jesus of Siberia” who has thousands of his own disciples who think he is Jesus “reincarnated” (not resurrected) sent to save the earth. In his crimson robe and long brown hair, his devotees say that he radiates incredible love, and speaking to him is like an electric shock or like bells ringing. And in case you doubt, he has stated, “It’s all very complicated. But to keep things simple, yes, I am Jesus Christ.”

But hey, for those of you who don’t want to travel all the way to Russia, today in Pennsylvania you could visit “What’s Your Name.” And the reason people call him that is because when they ask him, “What’s your name,” he will only reply back, “What’s Your name?” Sounds like an annoying version of the messiah to me, how about you? Yet he has thousands of people visiting him whom state, “I was in his presence for an hour and felt unbelievable.”

And for those of you who want a Messiah bigger than Pennsylvania can offer, you can check out Lord Maitreya of which thousands of people all over the world consider to be Jesus. His appearance is supposed to have

spawned “healing springs,” “weeping and bleeding statues,” and even “divine messages inscribed by the seeds within fruit and vegetables.”

Now, as amazing as this all sounds, the point is that these guys are not the only ones claiming to be Christ. **Right now, here in the United States alone, there are an estimated 10,000 people claiming to be Jesus.** And speaking of the United States, right now there’s a man named Jose Luis de Miranda going around claiming to be the literal second coming of Jesus Christ, teaching that there is no such thing as sin or hell, and asks his followers to tattoo 666, which he says is a good symbol, on their bodies as a sign of their allegiance to him. Yet, what’s even more amazing is that people not only do, but he has tens of thousands of followers all over the world doing it!

In fact, every year in Jerusalem, a strange phenomenon is occurring that has been dubbed the Jerusalem Syndrome, where tens of thousands of people have delusions of being a Biblical character or Jesus Christ Himself. And the sad thing is that people don’t know that they are actually **being prepared by these false christs to one day worship and follow the ultimate false christ, the antichrist**, who will say he is a god during the Tribulation.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is

revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

Can you see how people are being prepared **right now** for the worship of the antichrist? During the tribulation, people will actually think that worshipping a man is a good thing. Pretty slick isn't it? Now, I don't know about you guys, but **in the last century alone**, it sure sounds like there's been a huge **Increase of False Christs**. Just like the Bible said. When? In the last days.

The **2nd End Time Prophecy** concerning **The Rise of Falsehood** is that there will be an **Increase of False Teachers**.

2 Peter 2:1-2 "But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God and even turn against their Master who bought them. Theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching and shameful immorality. And because of them, Christ and his true way will be slandered."

According to our text there, another one of the biggest and most obvious signs to indicate when the last days would be approaching is when there would be an **Increase of False Teachers**. Now, throughout history we've had several groups of people who have brought forth false teachings that slander Christ's Name. That's been commonplace. But what's **not common** is how, **in the last century alone**, there has been an explosion of false teachers. Today, we have to contend with a multitude of false teachers

and their organizations such as Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, and even some Charismatic fringe groups. And can you guess when each one of these began to flourish? That's right, all in the last century. But there's one other group of false teachers that I want to talk about that has also taken off in the last century. And that is none other than the **New Age Movement**. Like many of the other false teachings, the New Age Movement has its roots in the occult and satanism. In fact, it is my opinion that the New Age Movement is the single false teaching that is **right now preparing the world for a One World Religion**. It's a mixture of all religions where nothing is wrong, except for Christianity. To show you what I mean, let's take a look at some of the typical New Age beliefs:

1. All is god: the earth, man, animals, and plants.
2. Man is destroying the earth along with the animals and plants and unless he changes his ways, "Mother Earth" will be forced to destroy humanity.
3. Christianity is the biggest culprit in destroying the earth by teaching that man had dominion over the earth when the earth is a living being.
4. There is no such thing as sin and no need to repent and be saved.
5. Jesus is but one of many great teachers such as Buddha, Muhammad or Confucius.
6. Mankind should seek direction directly from "the spirit world" via a psychic, a channeler, a palm reader, astrology, angels, space aliens, dead relatives, meditation, etc.
7. All religions (except orthodox Christianity) are of equal merit.
8. In order for the world to be at peace and harmony there must be "New World Order, Universal monetary system, World authority on food, health, and water, Universal tax, and military draft, One world leader, and the abolishment of Christianity.

Now, as you guys can see, those are some serious false teachings. In fact, you might be tempted to think that nobody in their right mind would ever fall for such heresy. Yet, as of 1995, New Agers represented twenty percent of the population in the United States, making them the third largest religious group. So the question is, “How are they able to get so many converts in America?” Well, as is the case with many of the false teachers, the New Age Movement has gone underground and is winning converts right under our noses.

And the 1st way the New Age Movement is seducing people is by promoting a **Healthy Earth**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Environmental Movement**. Little do people know that the teachings of environmentalism have roots in the occultic beliefs of the New Age Movement. The average person thinks that they are helping to **save the earth**, when in reality they are helping to spread the beliefs of the New Age Movement. Stop and think for a moment what the Environmental Movement teaches. Do they not believe that the earth, plants and animals are sacred, almost to the point of worship? Do they not say that man and Christianity are the biggest culprits in the destruction of the earth? Do they not promote a return to more “earth-centered” religions, and a global movement to unify

people to save the earth? In fact, one of the biggest environmental groups, the Sierra Club, has gone on record as stating this:

“‘Turn to the traditions of ancient cultures’ such as Buddhist meditations and Native American Hopi rituals in order to ‘reaffirm our bond with the spirit of the living earth. The more you contact the voice of the living earth and evaluate what it says, the easier it will become for you to contact it and trust what it provides.’”

Now, that sure sounds like New Age teachings to me, how about you? You see, there’s nothing wrong with having a healthy earth. The problem is when you place the earth before man, and begin to worship it above God. Besides, people don’t know that they are actually being prepared via the environmental movement **to explain away the earth’s catastrophes** that will take place during the Tribulation.

Revelation 8:7,9,11 “Hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down upon the earth, and one-third of the earth was set on fire. One-third of the trees were burned, and all the grass was burned. And one-third of all things living in the sea died. One-third of the water bitter, and many people died because the water was so bitter.”

Now, we all know that this is speaking of the judgment from God Almighty during the time of the Tribulation. But your average environmentalist is being taught this:

“Climatic shifts, droughts, floods, acid rain and pollution, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Although severe, these changes will pave the way for a cleansing of the earth and a new relationship between earth and man.”

“This will be the Day of Purification. Trees will die. Cold places will become hot. Hot places will become cold. Lands will sink into the ocean and lands will rise out of the sea.

All the suffering going on in this country with the tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes is carried on the breath of Mother Earth because she is in pain. This battle will cleanse the heart of people and restore our Mother Earth from illness, and the wicked will be gotten rid of.”

Can you see how people are being prepared **right now** for the earth catastrophes that will come one day? People during the Tribulation will actually think that the catastrophes from God are a good thing. Pretty slick isn't it? And it's all because they are being seduced by the New Age Movement promoting a Healthy Earth.

The **2nd** way the New Age Movement is seducing people is by promoting a **Healthy Body**. That's right, I'm talking about the **Vegetarian Movement**. Little do people know that the tenets of vegetarianism have roots in the occultic beliefs of the New Age Movement. The average person thinks that they are helping to **save the animals**, when in reality they are helping to spread the beliefs of the New Age Movement. Stop and think for a moment what the Vegetarian Movement teaches. Do they not believe that the earth, plants and **especially animals** are sacred, almost to the point of worship? One such group is SERV. The Society of Ethical Religious Vegetarians. Do they not say that man and Christianity are the biggest culprits in the destruction of the earth via the eating of animals? Do they not

promote a global movement to unify people to save the animals? Now that sure sounds like New Age teachings to me, how about you? You see, there's nothing wrong with having a healthy body. The problem is when you place animals before man, and begin to worship them above God. Besides, people don't know that they are being prepared via the vegetarian movement **to explain away a false teaching on the restriction of certain foods** that the Apostle Paul said would appear on the scene in the last days.

1 Timothy 4:2-3 "These teachers are hypocrites and liars. They pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead. They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanksgiving by people who know and believe the truth."

Now, we all know that its okay to eat any kind of food, especially meat, **since God said to** after the flood in Genesis Chapter 9. But your average vegetarian is being taught this:

"We need an interfaith effort to gain a more humane, just, peaceful, and environmentally sustainable world. We believe that by applying spiritual values to scientific knowledge encourages plant-based diets, with major benefits to humans, animals, and the environment."

"It is essential that there is a major shift toward vegetarianism to end diseases, horrible mistreatment of animals, threats to ecosystems, global climate change, wasteful use of water, land, fuel, widespread hunger, and increasing violence."

"Through the efforts of environmentalists, vegetarians, and animal rights activists, the earth will become a healthier, happier place for all species to live."

Can you see how people are being prepared **right now** for a false teaching that Paul said would come in the last days? People will actually think that a “controlled diet” is a good thing. Pretty slick isn’t it? And it’s all because they are being seduced by the New Age Movement promoting a Healthy Body.

The **3rd** way the New Age Movement is seducing people is by promoting a **Heavenly Host**. That’s right, I’m talking about the **Angels Craze and the UFO Movement**. Little do people know that the tenets of the messages supposedly coming from angels and UFOs have their roots in the occultic beliefs of the New Age Movement. The average person thinks that they are **making contact and receiving new teachings** from these heavenly hosts, when in reality they are helping to spread the beliefs of the New Age Movement via **demonic deception**. To show you what I mean, let’s take a look at the teachings that are coming from these supposed angels and UFO’s:

1. All of us are little gods.
2. The earth is a living entity and we need to worship her and change our ways or we will be destroyed.
3. Jesus, Muhammad, and Buddha all came from the ET’s to assist mankind in our next step of evolution.
4. There is no such thing as sin; we do not need to be saved.
5. Orthodox Christianity has it all wrong. Jesus’ real message was to teach us that each one of us could become “christs.”
6. To aid in contacting these “heavenly beings” one should refrain from certain foods and practice meditation

7. Mankind needs to unite into a one-world government and religion or we will be destroyed.
8. The devil or Lucifer is actually a good guy who has come to free us.

Now, that sure sounds like New Age teachings to me, how about you? Besides, why would these beings come all the way to earth just to promote occultic New Age teachings and practices and debunk Christianity? That's sounds demonic! And why is it that UFO experts are saying that these beings are not so much physical in nature but **spiritual** because they clock them at speeds up to 16,000 miles an hour making right turns which would instantly destroy anything that is physical. Hmmm. Demons are spiritual, aren't they? And why is it that the top UFO experts are now saying that based on decades of research, these beings aren't coming from outer space but **inner space**. They're coming from another dimension. Hmmm. Demons come from another dimension called the spirit realm. And why is it that there's only one way on record to get rid of these beings when they do come your way. And that's when you **command them in the Name of Jesus Christ to leave** and they do? Gee whiz folks, maybe it's just me, but that sure sounds like a demon. Therefore, if it walks like a demon, and talks like a demon, and acts like a demon, I'd kind of say, we're dealing with demons here!

And then as if that wasn't enough proof that we're dealing with actual demonic entities here, little do people know that they are being prepared via

the Angels and UFO teachings **to explain away the rapture of the Church**, which takes place prior to the time of the Tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 “I can tell you this directly from the Lord. We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever.”

Now, we all know that this is clearly referring to the evacuation of the Christians from the earth right before God’s wrath is poured out upon the world. But your average Angel and UFO enthusiasts are being taught this:

“There will be great shiftings within humanity on this planet. It will seem that great chaos and turmoil are forming, that nations are rising against each other in war, and that earthquakes are happening more frequently. Earth is shaking itself free, and a certain realignment or adjustment period is to be expected.

The people who leave the planet during the time of earth changes do not fit here any longer, and they are stopping the harmony of earth. When the time comes that perhaps twenty million people leave the planet at one time, there will be a tremendous shift in consciousness for those who are remaining.”

People of God, you talk about the ultimate excuse. Imagine the day when thousands of people worldwide are going to disappear from the planet via the rapture. The whole world will be in a state of absolute panic and wondering, hoping, groping for some answer **and then** somebody gets up and says, “Don’t worry. Your loved ones are just fine. They’ve been beamed

up by UFO's and are awaiting the time of rehabilitation when they can join us back here on earth safely as we now enter the Age of Utopia." People of God, wake up! We are living in the last days! We are seeing for the first time in mankind's history how people are being prepared **right now to explain away** the rapture of the Church, even to the point where people will actually think that being left behind is a good thing. Tell me that's not demonic! And it's all because they are being seduced by the New Age Movement promoting a Heavenly Host. Pretty slick, isn't it?

You see, there's nothing wrong with Heavenly Hosts. There are holy angels from God. Yet there are also deceptive demons working for satan. And the problem is when you place demonic teachings before God's Word and begin to follow them instead of the Bible; which is exactly what God said would happen in the last days.

1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons."

Now, I don't know about you guys, but it sure sounds like, **in the last century alone**, there has been a huge **Increase of False Teachers**. Just like the Bible said. When? In the last days.

And believe it or not, even with all this amazing evidence pointing to the signs of Christ's soon return, some people still refuse to listen to any kind of request, like this lady:

“In the 18th-century in England, a vagabond was exhausted and famished, when he came to a roadside inn with a sign reading, ‘George and the Dragon.’ So the hungry man knocked on the door of the inn.

At this, the innkeeper's wife stuck her head out a window, so the vagabond asked, ‘Could ye spare some porridge?’

The woman took one look at his shabby, dirty clothes and shouted, ‘No!’

Then the man asked, ‘Well then, could I have a pint of broth?’

And without missing a beat the woman yelled back, ‘No!’

Undaunted, the vagabond now requested, ‘Could I at least use your washroom?’

But the woman just shouted back again, ‘No!’

Well at this the vagabond said, ‘Might I please...?’

‘What now?’ the woman screeched, not allowing him to finish.

‘D’ye suppose,’ he asked, ‘that I might have a word with George?’”

Now, that lady didn't want to listen to any requests did she? But believe it or not, she's not alone. The Bible said that in the last days, many people would refuse to listen to God's request to repent and be saved before it's too late.

Revelation 3:3 “Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”

People of God, I hope you're not one of those who are refusing to listen to God's loving request to be saved. Why? Because if you are, you might wake up one day and discover that **you've been left behind**. And you know what? God doesn't want you left behind. Because He loves you and I, He has given us the warning sign of **The Rise of Falsehood** to show us that the Tribulation could be near and that Christ's 2nd Coming is rapidly approaching. Jesus Himself said this:

Luke 21:28 “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Like it or not folks, we are headed for **The Final Countdown**. We don't know the day or the hour. Only God knows. The point is, if you're a Christian, you need to know that all we are given in this life is a little bitty dash between two dates. I am of course speaking in regards to the dash on our tombstones. Therefore, life is short, pray hard and take somebody to heaven with you, will you? Folks, it's high time we Christians speak up and declare the good news of salvation to those who are dying all around us. But please, if you're not a Christian, give your life to Jesus today, because tomorrow may be too late! Just like the Bible said!

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”
