

IMMINENCE AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

(MATTHEW 24:4-8; 28:18-20)

Great Commission



Go Into All The World



Church Age

CHRIST PROMISES TO BE WITH THE CHURCH TILL THE END OF THE AGE



End of the Age

Day of the Lord

- The disciples ask for a sign that announces the end of the age (Mt.24:3)
- Jesus replied that intervening events must happen before the end of the age (Mt.24:4-8).
- These events include False Christs, wars and rumors or wars, famines, and earthquakes. These are called the “beginning of sorrows (birth pangs)”
- These events are not the signal the end has occurred, but that it has NOT occurred (Mt.24:6).
- Jesus warns them not to think the end has arrived when they witness the intervening events.
- The “beginning of sorrows” will not be as intense as the “great tribulation” (*megas thlipsis*) (Mt.24:21).
- The “birth pangs” suggests three stages of intensity: (1) beginning of sorrow, (2) great tribulation (intense birth pangs), (3) the birth or arrival of Jesus at the end of the age.
- Jesus’ explicit teaching of intervening events before His return rejects the notion of an imminent or “any moment” rapture. How can anyone suggest Jesus’ return is imminent right up to the end of the age?