

BIBLE STUDY

APOLOGETICS & THE END TIMES: DEFENDING YOUR FAITH

STUDY GUIDE: PART 1

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BISHOP ANDREW JAMES

In the world you shall
have tribulation: but be of
good cheer; I have
overcome the world.”

— John 16:33

THE MINDSET FOR THIS STUDY

Victory, Not Fear

We are not trying to figure out who wins. That is already settled. We are learning how to live knowing that truth.

Awareness, Not Anxiety

The end times are not a test of your imagination; they are a test of your attention.

Clarity, Not Confusion

We let Jesus define the end times, not culture, fear, or assumptions.

If your belief only lives
in your feelings, it won't
survive pressure.

THE FRAMEWORK

APOLOGETICS [uh-pol-uh-jet-iks]

From the Greek word *apologia* (a lawyer's formal defense in a courtroom).

WHAT IT IS NOT

Apologizing for your faith.

Relying solely on emotion (I feel it).

Shutting down thinking.

WHAT IT IS

Explaining your faith.

Answering: Why do I believe the Bible?

Sharpening thinking and making a case.

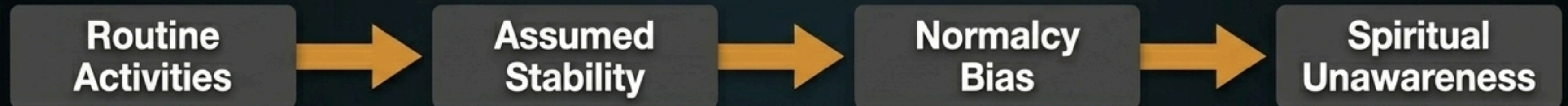
If you don't answer your questions, culture, fear, or assumptions will answer them for you.

SECTION ONE: THE FOUNDATION

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage... And knew not until the flood came...

— Matthew 24:37-39

THE PATTERN: NORMALCY BIAS



A Lens, Not A Story

Jesus pointed backwards to look forwards. He treated Noah as history, not mythology.

The Danger of Normal

The problem wasn't what they were doing (eating, marrying); it was what they were missing.

Normalcy Bias

The psychological belief that because things have been stable, they will remain stable. If it feels normal, we assume it is safe.

SECTION 1: STUDY & REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Jesus based a future prophecy on a historical event. If we trust Jesus, why is it vital that we wrestle with what Jesus trusted?

GROUP DISCUSSION

The activities listed in Matthew 24 (eating, drinking, marrying) are not inherently sinful—they are just life. Discuss how normalcy bias can cause us to miss spiritual realities hidden behind everyday routines.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Where in your life do you assume you are spiritually safe simply because your routine feels normal?

SECTION TWO: THE SHIFT (STARTED IN THE MIND)

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

— Genesis 6:5

FLUID TRUTH (Moral Relativism)	FIXED TRUTH (God's Standard)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truth is personal (My truth).• Constantly shifting and adjustable.• The Danger: When people disagree, the louder voice or stronger power wins. Truth bends toward what benefits us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truth comes from above us.• Does not shift with culture.• The Anchor: A logical necessity for real right and wrong. If truth is not above us, it will be controlled by us.

**Before a world breaks down outwardly, it shifts inwardly...
change what people think, and you change how they live.**

SECTION 2: STUDY & REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Have you ever found yourself believing something just because you heard it repeated so many times? How does cultural repetition act as conditioning?

GROUP DISCUSSION

The pastor noted that if two people disagree and there is no higher standard, whoever has more power wins. How do we see this playing out in today's culture?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Evaluate your current worldview inputs. Is your framework of reality being built by fixed truth (Scripture) or fluid truth (social media/culture)?

SECTION 3: STUDY & REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Drift doesn't feel like rebellion, it feels like adjustment. What does this statement mean to you personally?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Is there anything in our culture today that would have shocked you 10 years ago, but now just feels regular? Discuss how the gap between knowing and feeling has affected the modern church.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify one specific area in your life where your sensitivity to sin or worldly culture has decreased. Ask God to restore your spiritual sensitivity in that area.

SECTION FOUR: NOAH WAS PREACHING

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness... — 2 Peter 2:5

God Was Speaking

Noah wasn't just building; he was preaching with both his mouth and his actions.

The Cost of Truth

People don't ignore truth because it's unclear; they ignore it because it's convenient. When truth is real, it demands change.

The Real Question

People don't ask "Is this true?" They ask, "What do I have to change if it is?" We have more access to truth than any previous generation, but attention is divided.

SECTION 4: STUDY & REFLECTION

REFLECTION

You don't miss truth because it's hidden; you miss it because it's not a priority. How does this challenge the way you approach the Bible?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Many say, If God would just speak to me, I'd listen. Yet God spoke clearly in Noah's day and was ignored. Discuss why human nature avoids truth that demands personal change.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Are you currently treating any of God's truth as mere information rather than allowing it to shape and change your life?

SECTION FIVE: THE DOOR CLOSED

And they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away.

— Matthew 24:39

Avoidance Over Rebellion

The people didn't actively fight Noah; they simply didn't pay attention.

Avoidance is a human response to uncomfortable truth.

...and the LORD shut him in.

— Genesis 7:16

Quiet Finality

There was no countdown. opportunities don't always end loudly; sometimes they end quietly but permanently. The scariest part wasn't the rain—it was the door closing.

You don't have to reject truth to miss it.
You just have to ignore it.

SECTION 5: STUDY & REFLECTION

REFLECTION Why is avoidance sometimes more dangerous and deceptive than open rebellion?

GROUP DISCUSSION The flood caught people not necessarily doing evil in that exact moment, but simply not paying attention. How does this reframe how we should live as we await Christ's return?

PERSONAL APPLICATION Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Are you doing things for God out of routine, or do you truly know Him? Examine your heart's true posture this week.

FINAL APPLICATION

What manner of persons ought you to be? (2 Peter 3:1)

1 SLOW DOWN. Pick one part of your life to slow down. You cannot discern reality reality at full speed.

2 ASK GOD AN HONEST QUESTION. Pray: Lord, what am I missing?

3 PAY ATTENTION TO THE DRIFT. Identify what no longer bothers you. That is where drift happens.

The end won't start with panic; it will interrupt routine.
What routine for you right now might be a warning you're not hearing?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, thank you for teaching us through your word.

Help us not to study the end times with fear, but with awareness.

Help us not to chase headlines, but to recognize patterns.

Help us not to be moved by every voice around us, but to be grounded in your truth.

Teach us how to think clearly.

Teach us how to believe deeply.

Teach us how to live faithfully.

*And remind us that no matter what happens in the world, Jesus has already
overcome the world.*

In Jesus' name, Amen.