

OCTOBER 11, 2020 • DAVID SMITH

Are We Living in the End of Times?

We love beginnings, but what about endings? Some endings, like the end of life or the end of the world, can even feel scary. But we need not fear; we just have to be prepared. Let's talk about how to live now in light of what's to come.



INTRODUCTION

With the seemingly endless reports of social unrest and natural and man-made disasters, it seems we are living in the end of time. We are delving into this topic to provide confidence that God has the perfect plan, and we can be prepared when that day comes.

STARTER QUESTION

People have been talking about “the end of the world” for generations, but what about this year, the year of COVID 19 and “lockdowns”? What kinds of conversations have you been having among your families and friends around these unusual times?

INTO THE WORD

Pastor David pointed out that large portions of both the Old and New Testaments are devoted to the return of the Messiah. 2 Peter 3 says the Lord will come like a thief. The chapter goes on to say how the Believer should be while “waiting for these (new heavens and earth).” Read 2 Peter 3:14-15 and discuss how we should be preparing for Jesus’ return.

Pastor David reminds us that as people of faith, we should not be afraid of the end of time when Jesus will come. Jesus also tells us not to be alarmed (Matthew 24: 6). We know this to be true, and yet the subject matter still stirs fear in some of us. Why do you think that is? What words of encouragement do we find in 2 Peter 3:9?

The disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 24 for a sign of His second coming. Non-believers will follow a false prophet into eternity. (Matt 24:5) What signs are we seeing today that you think would make Jesus’ list?

Jesus’ return is soon, in the opinion of Pastor David, and some of the indicators include the return of the Jewish population to Israel, the land in Israel being restored, Israel being reborn, other nations aligned against Israel, and then the general global natural disasters and lawlessness. Dig into the following scriptures for further discussion: Jeremiah 16: 14-15; Isaiah 11:10-12; Ezekiel 35:35; Amos 9; Zechariah 8; Isaiah 35:1-2, Zechariah 8:2-3; Isaiah 11:12; Luke 21, and Mark 13.

APPLICATION

What does being ready look like? Are you under or over the age of 30? According to what we learned in the sermon, age tends to make a difference in our attitude about the end times. Are you storing up ready-to-eat meals or storing up scriptures in your heart? Discuss what you are doing to prepare yourself for the return of Jesus. What are some areas of your life you feel you are “ready” and some areas you need to address?

PRAYER

Father prepare our hearts to know your ways and your words, and to be ready for your return. Amen.