

# Why Talk About The End 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.



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## INTRODUCTION

The topic of the “end times” is one that can often seem mysterious, evasive, or even scary. However, when we study God's Word, we can learn how to address this topic from a standpoint of preparedness. Because no one really knows when Jesus is coming back to earth, the Bible always teaches us to be prepared - for the “End Times.”

## STARTER QUESTION

What has been your approach to and/or perception of the topic of the “end times?” How do you connect our current times to the “end times?” Can the Bible provide any peace of mind about what is happening? How do we move forward with all the unprecedented, and potentially alarming things occurring within our world?

## INTO THE WORD

The Bible speaks of famines, wars and rumors of wars, and other natural disasters becoming more common as we draw closer to the end times. What events occurring today seem to match up with the Bible's prophetic details regarding the end of time? Sometimes thinking about these events can be scary. What end times issues are scary for you? What do you know about God in times of trouble from your own experiences? Isaiah 26:3 indicates God keeps us in perfect peace when our minds are focused on Him. What verses comfort you in times of trouble? Take heart! He is able even in the scariest of times.

Jesus indicated that we are to work for Him while we are here on the earth. He wants us to live in peace instead of fear. Study the following verses to ponder Jesus's desire for us to stay busy, be patient, and be prepared: Galatians 6:8-10, Mark 13:20, and John 9:4. What other verses give you peace and/or understanding about the way we are to approach this issue?

David indicated that we “leak” spiritually, and God reminds us through scriptures like Lamentations 3:23 that the Lord's mercies are new every morning. Take some time to read through Lamentations 3, and then consider what measures we can take in life to keep us close to God? Many of the Psalms give us hope when we need to “rebuild” our inner peace and strength.

## APPLICATION

David referred to the phrase “so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good.” Are you familiar with this statement? Why do you think this phrase became popular? Have you ever thought that way about someone? What qualities made you think that about them? David rethought that phrase to be, “Your earthly good comes from being heavenly minded.” Do you think it is possible to be too “heavenly minded?” Reflect on these statements and what you believe our approach should be to the world around us in response.

David shared several examples of false end-of-the-world predictions (e.g., Y2K). What has been your experience with others – either personally or from a distance (e.g., documentary) - who have supported these predictions?

Are you aware of any effect, either positive or negative, on their spiritual life/quality of life/relationships because of these beliefs? What do you believe should be our approach to people who support a false prediction or way of viewing the end times?

David shared that being prepared for the end of time inspires us to encourage others and identifies that obedience matters now and for eternity. What are some ways you can be an encouragement to others that you have not previously considered? What motivates you to be obedient? Is there a different approach you need to consider to your motives for being obedient and/or teaching others about obedience?

## **PRAYER**

Lord, we know you are returning for us at the end of time – whenever that occurs – and that gives us great peace to do your work until you see fit to take us all home to live with You forever. Give us the strength to rely upon you, the wisdom to approach our work for You and our work with others, and the attitude of preparedness we need until that time comes. Thank You for helping us to understand that all You do for us is based upon your incredible love for us. In Jesus's name, amen.