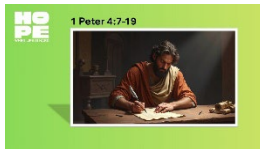


1 Peter 4:7-19

1 Peter #8 • July 19, 2026

1 Peter 4:7-19



“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

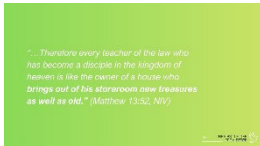
Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people’s affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God’s household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News? And also, “If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?” So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.” (1 Peter 4:7–19, NLT)

Recap



Our summer in the book of 1 Peter continues this morning as we go further into chapter four. After today, we'll only have two more weeks left in this series...and you guys will be experts on the subject matter (or at least closer to expert!).

I love that our series has taken us through the letter, and each week has opened up new content – new truth that is precious and important! Like Jesus said,



“...Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (Matthew 13:52, NIV)

We keep bringing out new treasures and old from Peter’s writing!

The theme of this series has come from the letter, which clearly tries to share “**hope when life is hard.**” Specifically, Peter has been writing to Christians who are suffering, and he is giving them guidance on how to cling to hope in the midst of that suffering.

Remember how he started the letter?



“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (1 Peter 1:3–7, NLT)

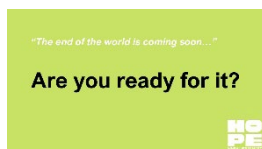
So far, we've spent a lot of time talking about the "what," "why," and "how" of that hope. But (while it has been mentioned) we haven't spent as much time on the "when." We didn't talk extensively about the *timing* of that hope other than acknowledging it happens in the future.

In the passage we just read, Peter mentions:

- *Things that will be revealed **"on the last day for all to see"***
- *Joy **"ahead"** while the trials only last **"a little while"***
- *Upcoming honor **"on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."***

Clearly, Peter has a sense of timing! There is a time **approaching**. That time is approaching **quickly**. And that time will be a **final** time.

Peter reprises similar phrases in today's passage from chapter four. Yes, chapter 4 echoes many of the same "**what**" and "**why**" topics we've been discussing – "*doing good, not bad,*" and "*enduring suffering for the sake of Christ.*" But it places emphasis on the "**when**" statements. Peter says it often: *The end of the world is coming soon!* Your hope is near!



So, I ask you: **Are you ready for it to arrive?**



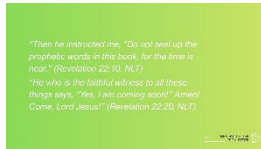
Timing of the Last Day

"The end of the world is coming soon." (1 Peter 4:7)

Or, if we were to put it into World Cup soccer lingo, "**We are in stoppage time.**" If you've watched any international *futbal*, you might be familiar with the concept. The referee on the field is the one who manages the clock. What you see on the scoreboard is just a close approximation. What happens on his stopwatch is what matters. While a game lasts 90 minutes, events on the field sometimes stop play. An injury happens, or a team spends too much time arguing, or a player is too dramatically rolling around on the field pretending to be injured. The referee takes some of that time and adds it to the end of the game. When the clock strikes 90 minutes, the referee says, "No, we'll keep going for another four minutes."

The players have a general sense of how much longer they have...but no one knows **exactly** when play will stop. They will only know when the whistle blows.

Our world is in stoppage time, Church. So it has been for a long time! In the book of Revelation, written toward the end of the 1st century, we read:



*“Then he instructed me, “Do not seal up the prophetic words in this book, **for the time is near.**” (Revelation 22:10, NLT)*

*“He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “**Yes, I am coming soon!**” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20, NLT)*

So, we are already in the 90th minute, theologically speaking. There is a chance at any moment that the end will arrive, marked not by three blasts of a referee’s whistle but by the long blast of a trumpet (1 Thess 4:16).

Christians since Peter’s day have been anxiously waiting for that moment to arrive. It is our song, as Christians write lyrics like:

*People get ready Jesus is coming
Soon well be going home
People get ready Jesus is coming
To take from the world His own¹*

It could happen anytime. But what exactly will happen at the end? **Are we ready for the reality?**

Events of the Last Day



In my experience, people treat Jesus’ return in one of three ways, much like the way they approach an upcoming trip.

Along for the ride. You know it’s happening, but you let someone else plan the details (a sister, a travel agent, a cruise director). You say, “Tell me where to show up and I’ll be there!” You don’t know the dates or even much of where you’ll be

¹ Crystal Lewis, “People Get Ready, Jesus is Comin’” 1996 © CLR

going...but you trust whoever's in charge and are ready to follow.

Informed excitement. You have a big picture of days and destinations. You know the major things you'll be doing – you've seen the brochures. You can point out specific activities you're ready to do; you can pack appropriately knowing generally what is in store. You just lack specifics.

Itinerary Experts. You need to know **exactly** what happens so there is no mystery. You've looked at travel routes, calculated stops, scouted locations online, checked weather, made a binder with each day's schedule so that no minute is wasted. You won't miss a thing!

(Which are you? Raise a hand if you are *along for the ride*? Full of informed excitement? The *itinerary expert*?)

Different personalities approach the unknown differently, whether looking at a trip or expectantly waiting on eternity! I have friends who want to know every detail – I have one who has literally written books on Jesus' return! I have others who have stayed blissfully ignorant because Revelation seemed like too much effort to understand.

But Peter says, *"The end of the world is coming soon."* And as Peter writes this, he says it **in order to offer hope**. Church, the end is GOOD! You can have hope if you know what is coming! I feel compelled to share some details this morning to at least bring you to the point of "informed excitement."

What happens in the end? Let me paint the picture in broad terms of what Jesus will do at his second coming.²



1. He Will Appear with Power and Glory

The Scriptural foundation for the return of Jesus indicates a public, unmistakable event.

"... And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather

² This overview is not original to me. But I have lost the source...

his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.” (Matthew 24:30–31, NLT)

His coming is neither symbolic nor hidden! There is hope because Jesus returns in a real event that we will see!



2. He Will Gather His People

Scripture portrays Jesus as gathering believers to Himself at His return.

“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers 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. Then we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, NLT)

Whether this gathering happens early (a “rapture”) or late is debated by the “itinerary experts,” but either way we have hope that those who have been claimed by Jesus (past and present – including many you love!) will be gathered.



3. He Will Judge the Nations

Jesus’s return includes His role as ultimate judge. Acts 17:31 affirms that God...

*“... has set a day for **judging the world** with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” (Acts 17:31, NLT)*

His return will be a day of final reckoning. Both believers and unbelievers will answer for their deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10). While every individual’s eternal destiny is determined by faith in Christ as Lord and Savior (John 3:16–18), believers will stand before Christ’s judgment seat to receive rewards (1 Corinthians 3:12–15), and all who rejected Him will face ultimate separation (Matthew 25:46).

If you are in Christ, His judgment is a source of hope! We do not approach it with fear; instead, we approach it with humility and trust. On our own it would be terrifying. With Jesus, it is liberating!



4. He Will Restore Creation and Vanquish Evil

Upon Christ's return, creation itself will experience renewal as evil will be finally vanquished!

*“On the day when I act, you will **tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet**,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.” (Malachi 4:3, NLT)*

Jesus will powerfully wield His authority to defeat the powers of darkness. After Jesus triumphs, Satan will face ultimate judgment (Revelation 20:10).

Can you imagine a world where the Enemy’s lies no longer torment you and he tempts you no longer? That is hope!



5. He Will Usher in the Resurrection and Transformation of Believers

Scripture proclaims that believers will experience bodily resurrection at Christ's return.

“It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.” (1 Corinthians 15:52–53, NLT)

This transformation addresses humanity's deepest longing for redemption and eternal life. You and I have hope that we will be clothed in an upgraded, uncorrupted resurrection body! Our eternity with Jesus won't have bad knees, weak hearts, thinning hair, or poor eyes. Gone will be the stretch marks and surgery scars, the joints that ache when it rains, the pimples that show up at the worst times! There is hope!



6. He Will Establish His Kingdom

Biblical passages point to Christ's reign of peace and righteousness.

“Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:4, NLT)

Many interpreters understand this as a literal millennium (a thousand-year period), although Christian traditions vary on specifics regarding the timeline. However it happens, we hold to the hope and promise of Christ’s **physical rule** and the renewal of this world under His authority. His kingdom is characterized by the absence of injustice and by the complete alignment with God’s will.



7. He Will Bring About the New Heavens and New Earth

After the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15), Scripture anticipates a renewed cosmic order.

“But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:13, NLT)

This new creation is the culmination of God’s redemptive plan that began in Genesis 1:1. The same God who created life and designed the universe with intricate order gives us hope that He will recreate a perfect environment free from death, suffering, and sin!



8. He Will Fulfill All Messianic Prophecy

Every promise regarding the Messiah’s triumph will be realized at His return. We’ll finally see the fulfilment of passages like Zechariah 14:4.

“On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west....” (Zechariah 14:4, NLT)

Christ’s first coming fulfilled numerous prophecies (e.g., Psalm 22, Isaiah 53). At His second coming, remaining prophecies (such as the complete restoration of Israel and the gathering of the faithful) find

their ultimate completion (Romans 11:25-27). We have hope now because we will see fulfillment then!



9. He Will Invite Humanity into Eternal Fellowship with God

Finally, those who trust in Christ will dwell eternally with Him in unmarred fellowship.

“I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.””
(Revelation 21:3–4, NLT)

This eternal state fulfills humanity’s deepest longing: to be in unhindered relationship with the Creator!

In general “informed excitement” terms, then, you should have hope! Lock in those details! Upon His return...

- Jesus will come in visible power and glory,
- gather His people,
- judge the nations,
- vanquish evil,
- usher in the resurrection and transformation of believers,
- establish His righteous kingdom,
- fulfill all messianic prophecies...and ultimately
- bring those who have faith in Him into an everlasting fellowship.

That is your hope, Church! That is what you can look forward to as a Christian when “stoppage time” runs out!

Are you ready for that reality?! (I hope so!) But don’t just be “ready...” Be prepared for it!

Preparing for the Last Day

One of my favorite lines about the End Times/Last Days/the Consummation/the Second Coming/the Apocalypse/the Parousia (whatever you call it) was shared to me by Dr. David Byrd. “*Jesus is coming sometime. He may come anytime. So be ready all the time!*”

Preparation is more than just anticipation. It is **action**.

Last year I had the pleasure of attending a NASCAR race with Joe Krivjansky. It was a great time, and I learned a lot about the sport. But I also learned about preparation. Joe was ready for anything. Water, sunscreen, ear protection? He had it. Hot sun beating down? Joe knew that by 3:30 the stadium would block it and keep us in the shade. Exit plan? He was fast! Left here, right there, avoid the congestion there, and we were back on 24-40 before I could say “checkered flag!”

Preparation gets you ready for the reality you will face!

As Peter elaborates in chapter 4, he talks about behavior that gets us ready for the return. Believers, we should be doing things to get themselves ready for the eternity we just described!

I want you to read those verses today on your own and think about them.

Peter talks about...

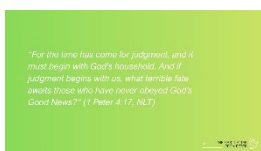
Prayer. Love. Hospitality. Service. Things that *invest in the people* who will stand beside us on the day of Christ’s return. Things that help us start *loving the people* who will share in Christ’s glory.

He talks about...

Joy and Purity as we wait (even when the suffering is hard). In our hope we can bring God glory!

He affirms that we will face scrutiny for the way we prepare.

“For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God’s household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News?” (1 Peter 4:17, NLT)



The scrutiny we face should motivate us to live differently – to engage in preparation, not just anticipation! Jesus makes this life better, but His return will make eternal life exceedingly superior!

So, we prepare with optimism. We are not like those who face eternal condemnation. We have Jesus! We have hope!



Conclusion

When will it happen? I don't know. It may be this week! It may be this year!

Even though I can't answer "when" with specificity, I want to be ready. And I want you to be ready, too. For yourself, and for those you love. Take action now.

Jesus is coming soon.



Prayer

Invitation

- Prepared?
- Part of God's household? If not, don't wait!
- Help with prep? Let us pray for you

Sermon Notes

Timing of the Last Day

(Revelation 22:10, 20)

Events of the Last Day

He will...

1. Appear with Power and Glory (Mt 24:30-31)
2. Gather His People (1 Thess 4:16-17)
3. Judge the Nations (Acts 17:31)
4. Restore Creation and Vanquish Evil (Mal 4:30)
5. Resurrect and Transform Believers (1 Cor 15:52-53)
6. Establish His Kingdom (Rev 20:4)
7. Bring About the New Heavens and New Earth (2 Pt 3:13)
8. Fulfill All Messianic Prophecy (Zech 14:4)
9. Invite Humanity into Eternal Fellowship with God (rev 21:3-4)

Preparing for the Last Day

Sermon Discussion Questions

- According to 1 Peter 4:7-19, what does Peter say believers should do because "the end of the world is coming soon"?
- Why do you think Peter connects Christ's return with practical commands like prayer, love, hospitality, and serving others?
- What does "sensible and sober-minded" (4:7) prayer look like? How can you be more intentional in your prayer time?
- Do you love others "earnestly" (4:8)? Is this love emotional or based on a decision?
- How can love "cover a multitude of sins" (4:8)? Share an example of a time when someone's love helped you move past the results or the experience of sin.
- How would you show hospitality to a visiting missionary? List actions you might take. Why is Peter's caveat to be hospitable "without grumbling" (4:9) so hard? Why is it so important?
- What gifts have you received from God? (4:10) How are you using those gifts to serve others currently? Who is one person who has benefited from your use of those gifts?
- Read 1 Peter 4:11. What is the goal of using our gifts? How does your service bring glory to God?
- If "the end of the world is coming soon," would you be satisfied that your actions were adequately preparing yourself and others for Jesus to arrive? Would God?
- "Jesus is coming sometime. He may come anytime. So be ready all the time." What would "being ready all the time" practically look like this week?

