

Your Will Be Done on Earth

I. The End of This Age

A. Jesus' Description

Matthew 24:3 (NIV®)

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and **what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?**"

Galatians 1:3-5 (NIV®)

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ **who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 2:6-9 (NIV®)

⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that **in the coming ages** he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Matthew 24:4-14 (NIV®)

⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

⁸ **All these are the beginning of birth pains.**

⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

¹² Because of the increase of wickedness/lawlessness, the love of most will grow cold,

¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV®)

³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and **the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the man doomed to destruction.

⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

B. Present Age Will Come Under God's Judgment

Luke 17:26-30 (NIV®)

²⁶ **"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.** ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ **"It was the same in the days of Lot.** People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. ²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ **"It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.**

C. Many Will Refuse to Consider God as Judge or Creator

2 Peter 3:3-7 (NIV®)

³ First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴ They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.

⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ **By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.**

D. God Knows How to "Rescue Godly Men"

2 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV®)

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, **but protected Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;



⁶ if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

⁷ and **if he rescued Lot**, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men

⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)--

⁹ **if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials** and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.

¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;

E. What Kind of People Should We Be?

2 Peter 3:11-13 (NIV®)

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, **what kind of people ought you to be?** You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.