

Conversation Starters

- What feelings were you left with after the message?
- Have you ever thought much about the end times?

Discuss

Many Eastern religions teach that life is cyclical and never-ending, but the Bible teaches that there will be an end to humanity as we know it, often referred to as the "end times," followed by life in eternity.

- How do these two differing worldviews change the way you live?

As described in the Bible, the end times will involve the coming of the antichrist, the great tribulation and the second coming of Jesus. We can get wrapped up in all of the details of what exactly will happen, when, and how, but it's hard for us to really know for certain. The point is that it's coming, it will be bad, but it won't last forever.

"... the antichrist is coming." ([1 John 2:18 NIV](#))

"How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers.... For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive..." ([Matthew 24:21-22 NIV](#))

- What struck you about the nature of the antichrist's power when he comes?
- How do you think you would react during the period of tribulation?
- How do the end times magnify the hope that can be found in Jesus?

[Jesus spoke about the end times](#) and gave us some signs to be on the lookout for. Many things happening in our world now seem to point to the end times. We don't know that we're in them, but they could be and we should live accordingly. Not in fear or paranoia, but in sober-mindedness to be ready to go through the end times and to be ready for Christ's return.

Signs of the End Times:

1. Widespread spiritual deception
2. Global eruption of war
3. Natural disasters
4. Persecution of Christ followers
5. Widespread spiritual apostasy
6. Internal conflict among Christ followers
7. Increasing moral insensitivity
8. All will have a chance to hear

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return." ([Matthew 25:13 NLT](#))

- What signs stick out to you?
- How would you respond if you were at the end of time facing Jesus?
- How can you be living now in preparation for facing Jesus?

Next Steps

Hearing about the end times can be difficult, but the silver lining is that God ultimately has the final word and gives us hope for a joyous future in eternity through Jesus. Talking about this can provide us a reminder about looking at our life in the scope of eternity and living in light of it. Pray this week thanking God for the hope that's provided in Jesus and for wisdom to live your life now in preparation for the end times.

It's also a reminder to share the great news about Jesus with everyone we possibly can. Pray this week for the people around you that don't know Jesus and for God to connect with them, possibly through you. You can also [invite them the Meck](#) to learn more about Jesus and what He could mean for their life.

We all have room to grow. The [Meck Institute](#) is a great place to continue learning about God's teaching for your life. Want to take the weekend discussion a bit further? Join us for our [Virtual Groups](#) that meet online to discuss with others what we're learning each week and how it applies to everyday life.

Further Reflection

Read [1 John 2:18](#); Revelation 13:[1-7](#), [16-18](#); [2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#); [Daniel 9:26-27](#); [Matthew 24:3-14](#), [21-24](#); [25:13](#); [Jeremiah 6:15](#).

Pray

God, You have the ultimate authority and power above everything and everyone else in the world. We don't know when the end times will begin or if we're in them, but thank You for providing hope for a joyous time in eternity through Jesus. Help us to live in a way that honors that free gift now so that we can be ready for whenever that time comes.