

## **GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

Kelly Walter | June 17-18, 2023

Week 3: Jesus' Glorious Return – Part 1

### **Promises... Promises...**

After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11 NIV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.  
John 14:1-3 NIV

According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NIV

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:1-3 NIV

### **When Will These Things Happen?**

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Matthew 24:36 NIV

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 NIV

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. 2 Peter 3:10 NIV

### **An Increase in Wickedness**

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” Matthew 24:9-13 NIV

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2 Timothy 3:1-5a NIV

### **An Increase of the Spread of the Gospel**

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.  
Matthew 24:14 NIV

The church is not shrinking... it is shifting... and it is being sifted.

Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. Daniel 12:10 NIV

You believe in God; believe also in Me. John 14:1 NIV



# GOD'S GOOD PLAN FOR THE *future*

## JESUS' GLORIOUS RETURN – Part 1 Talk-it-Over Notes | June 17-18, 2023

### REVIEW IT

Jesus is coming again! It is the Blessed Hope and promise to which all creation is looking forward. He will return so that He can be with us and we can be with Him. But, the question isn't, are we living in the last days? The truth is, we are living in the only days we will ever have. The purpose of biblical prophecy is not prediction, it's preparation.

**Spend some time in the word: Read 1 Thessalonians chapters 4 & 5**

### TALK ABOUT IT

What has been your attitude toward Jesus' return in the past? Fear, confusion, anticipation, hope? What do you think has contributed or shaped that view?

What stood out to you about this message specifically. In other words, if the pastor were to preach it again, what would you hope would be included.

Which of the promises of Christ do you cling to the most? Promise of His return? Promise to be with you in difficult times? Promise of spreading the Gospel? Promise of a prepared place in Heaven?

The Bible says to encourage one another with the truth of Christ's return. How can you encourage someone with this truth? In what way do you need to be encouraged by it?

### ACT ON IT

The end times will see an increase of wickedness — don't let that infect your own hearts. As you see wickedness creeping into your life... Confess it... Repent of it... Put your armor on... and Stand firm! Christ has promised to see you through.

### PRAY ABOUT IT

Ask how you can pray to support one another this week and then close in prayer.