

The End Times According to Jesus

Small Group Guide:

The End Times According to Jesus, Week 5

Key Takeaways:

1. Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy accurately predicted the exact day Jesus would enter Jerusalem as the Messiah.
2. There is a gap between the 69th and 70th week in Daniel's prophecy, which we are currently in.
3. Jesus pronounced a national blindness on Israel for not recognizing the time of His first visitation.
4. The restoration of Israel as a nation in 1948 marks the beginning of the countdown to Jesus' second coming.
5. Our generation may be the one to see Jesus' return, based on biblical timelines and prophecies.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Daniel's precise prophecy about Jesus' first coming impact your faith? Does it strengthen your belief in biblical prophecy?

2. Pastor Allen mentions that Jesus expected the Jews to know the time of His first visitation. How can we apply this expectation to our own lives regarding His second coming?
3. Discuss the concept of spiritual blindness that Jesus pronounced on Israel. How might this affect our understanding of current events and Israel's role in end-times prophecy?
4. Pastor Allen suggests that the generation born after 1948 may see Jesus' return. How does this possibility affect your perspective on life and your spiritual priorities?
5. What are your thoughts on the idea that God held Israel accountable for years of servitude due to their disobedience? How might this relate to God's justice and mercy in our lives?
6. The sermon emphasizes the importance of being ready for Jesus' return. What practical steps can we take to ensure we are spiritually prepared?

Practical Application:

1. Commit to studying biblical prophecy, particularly Daniel and Revelation, to better understand end-times events.
2. Reflect on your own spiritual readiness for Jesus' return. Identify areas in your life that need alignment with God's will.
3. Pray for spiritual discernment to recognize the signs of the times and stay alert to Jesus' imminent return.
4. Share the gospel with others, emphasizing the urgency of salvation in light of end-times prophecies.

5. Support Israel and pray for the Jewish people, recognizing their significant role in God's prophetic timeline.
6. Cultivate an attitude of expectancy and longing for Christ's return, rather than being overly attached to worldly pursuits.
7. Stay informed about current events, particularly those involving Israel and the Middle East, and view them through the lens of biblical prophecy.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His plan of redemption and the promise of Christ's return.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Recognizing God's Timing

Reading: Daniel 9:24-27, Luke 19:41-44

Devotional: As we reflect on Daniel's prophecy and Jesus' lament over Jerusalem, we're reminded of the importance of recognizing God's timing in our lives. Just as the Jewish leaders missed the day of their visitation, we too can become blind to God's work around us. Today, let's pray for spiritual discernment to see where God is moving in our lives and in the world. How might God be calling you to respond to His timing right now? Are there areas where you've been resistant to God's leading? Take time to surrender those areas to Him and ask for the courage to follow His perfect timing.

Day 2: The Messiah's Sacrifice

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-8, Romans 5:6-11

Devotional: Daniel's prophecy pointed to the Messiah being "cut off, but not for himself." This powerful image of sacrificial love is further illuminated in Isaiah's prophecy and Paul's letter to the Romans. As you meditate on these passages, consider the depth of God's love for you. Christ willingly bore our sins and suffering, not because we deserved it, but because of His boundless love. How does this sacrificial love change the way you view your own life and purpose? Today, look for ways to extend this sacrificial love to others, even in small acts of kindness or forgiveness.

Day 3: Hope in God's Promises

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 11:25-27

Devotional: The restoration of Israel as a nation in 1948 serves as a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness to His promises. Even when circumstances seem hopeless – like dry bones in a valley – God is able to breathe new life. What areas of your life feel dry or hopeless right now? Bring those before God today, trusting in His power to restore and renew. Remember that God's timing may be different from ours, but His promises never fail. How can you cultivate hope and patience as you wait on God's promises in your life?

Day 4: Watchfulness and Readiness

Reading: Matthew 24:32-44, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Devotional: Jesus' words about the fig tree and His return remind us of the importance of spiritual watchfulness. While we cannot know the exact day or hour, we are called to live in a state of readiness. Reflect on your current spiritual state. Are you living each day as if it could be the day of Christ's return? What changes might you need to make to be more spiritually alert and prepared? Consider how you can encourage fellow believers to remain watchful and hopeful in these times.

Day 5: God's Presence in Tribulation

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17, Romans 8:18-39

Devotional: While the sermon discusses difficult times ahead, particularly for Israel, it's crucial to remember God's faithful presence even in the midst of tribulation. The book of Revelation gives us a glimpse of the ultimate victory and comfort God provides for His people. As you face challenges in your own life, how can you lean into God's presence and promises? Meditate on the truth that nothing can separate us from God's love. Today, practice finding moments of worship and gratitude even in the midst of your struggles, trusting that God is working all things for good.