

Week 3: Is this the End of the World?

Day 1: The Signs of the Times

READ

- **Matthew 24:3–14** – Jesus explains the signs of His return
 - **2 Timothy 3:1–5** – The character of people in the last days
 - **Romans 8:18–25** – Creation groans for redemption
 - **Matthew 24:36** – “No one knows the day or the hour”
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REFLECT

When the disciples asked Jesus, “What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?” they weren’t asking for fear they were asking for focus.

They wanted to know how to stay faithful when the world started to fall apart.

Jesus didn’t give them a timeline; instead, He gave them a warning and a calling: Stay awake. Don’t be deceived. Endure. Keep preaching the gospel.

It’s the same for us. We don’t have to spend the end times in speculation or in guessing the day and time (because no one will know)- instead, this time they’re about preparation.

Specifically, Jesus taught that in the end times

- Deception would increase,
- Truth would be twisted
- Wars would rage
- Hearts would grow cold.

He told us the world would ache like a woman in labor intense, painful, but leading to something glorious. He also said the gospel would reach the ends of the earth, and then the end would come.

When we read these words today, it’s tempting to look at headlines and feel fear. It’s wild out here! We see the wars in the Middle East, deception rising throughout headlines - But Jesus’ goal isn’t to stir anxiety -it was to anchor His followers in hope. Every prophecy points us back to one truth: God is not out of control.

Studying the end times matters because it reminds us that:

- **History is not random.** God has a plan, and it's unfolding right on time.
- **Suffering is not wasted.** Even in tribulation, God refines His people.
- **Our mission is not finished.** The end doesn't come through collapse, but through completion -the gospel to every nation.
- **Hope is not naïve.** It's the confidence that Jesus will keep every promise He's ever made.

The signs of the times aren't just warnings—they're invitations.

Every earthquake, every headline, every moral shift reminds us: this isn't home. The same God who began history will one day close the final chapter and those who belong to Christ will see it redeemed. As Christians, this is exciting!

So rather than fixate on when the end will come, the question for believers is this:

How will I live until it does?

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1. When you think about the “end times,” what emotions come up, fear, curiosity, hope? Why do you think that is?
2. Which of the signs Jesus described (deception, war, moral decay, gospel spread, etc.) feels most evident to you today?
3. How might remembering that God is in control change the way you approach anxiety, news, or world events?
4. What does it mean to you to “stay awake” spiritually this week?

Day 2: What the Prophecies Reveal

READ

- **Matthew 24:4-14, 23-27** – Jesus warns of deception, false messiahs, and global unrest
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** – The rise of the “man of lawlessness” (Antichrist)
- **Ezekiel 37-38** – God's restoration and defense of Israel
- **Revelation 13:1-18** – The beast, false prophet, and global deception

- **Daniel 9:24-27** – Prophecy of the “seventy weeks” and coming ruler
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REFLECT

If Day 1 taught us *why* the end times matter, Day 2 shows us *what* to watch for.

Jesus and the prophets gave signposts to follow not to make us obsessed with headlines, but to help us see the story behind them. This doesn't mean we need to pour over each storm, war, and hide in a corner in fear. Instead, we are meant to stay alert and understanding.

Here are the **main prophetic patterns** the Bible reveals:

1. Deception and False Truths

Jesus' first warning wasn't about war or disaster; it was “*Watch that no one deceives you.*”

False teachers, counterfeit gospels, and distorted truth will multiply. We see this now “All religions point to the same God” - “The energy of the earth will bring you what you need and want”. Oftentimes the lies will start just two millimeters off of the truth.

The enemy's greatest weapon isn't chaos; it's *confusion*.

“For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” (Matthew 24:24)

Staying alert means grounding yourself daily in the Bible, not the opinions of other people. It's not about knowing every theory it's about knowing the truth well enough to recognize a counterfeit.

2. The Return and Protection of Israel

For centuries, prophecy students wondered how a nation destroyed in A.D. 70 could ever exist again. Then in 1948, Israel was reborn in a day, the only ancient nation in history to return to its homeland after 1,900 years.

Why does that matter today?

Because Scripture shows that Israel will always be at the center of world tension and spiritual warfare.

When you see headlines about the Middle East, don't just think politics, think prophecy. God's faithfulness to Israel is proof that He keeps His promises. The same God who brought them back will bring His kingdom to completion.

“I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land.” (Ezekiel 37:21)

Israel's story is not finished. The same God who restored a scattered nation will one day restore all creation, meaning even not being Jewish, we can trust that God has a plan for us also.

3. The Rise of the Antichrist and Global Control

Scripture speaks of a coming leader, the “man of lawlessness”, who will deceive many, promising peace while demanding worship of anything except God.

“**He will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped.**” (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

The goal isn't to name the Antichrist and find this particular person; it's to recognize the *spirit* of the Antichrist **already at work** whenever truth is twisted, freedom is traded for control, and ourselves or other idols (success, privilege, wealth) becomes god in our own life.

4. Wars, Rumors of War, and Global Unrest

Jesus said, “*You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... but see to it that you are not alarmed.*” (Matt 24:6)

Jesus didn't say there might be wars. He said there will be.

The headlines echo His words: wars in Europe and the Middle East, nuclear threats, cyberterrorism, economic collapse.

But the bigger prophecy isn't about bombs, it's about *fear*.

Our generation is exhausted by the constant drumbeat of bad news. Fear sells. Fear controls. Fear divides.

What we know pushes against fear, is love. “Perfect love casts out all fear”. Our focus is not to bury our head in the sand, build up our bomb shelters and freak out but rather to continue to showcase God's love in the midst of the fear.

5. Worldwide Evangelism and Persecution

Jesus declared that the gospel will be preached to all nations **and then the end will come** (Matt 24:14).

Technology has made global evangelism more possible than ever - livestreams, translations, podcasts, and missions in closed nations. The same digital systems that spread lies about the world or deceive - we also get to use to carry truth.

We're living in the **greatest window of evangelism history has ever seen**. This is exciting. And the invitation is for us to be a part of it. Within our families, our workspaces, our friendships.

Above all else, there is one prophecy that we cling to “Jesus will return”. In this time is where a new heaven and a new earth will appear, where we will reside in new bodies and in relationship with Christ. We look to this future with hope!

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1. Which of these prophetic signs (deception, Israel, Antichrist, wars, global gospel) feels most real or relevant in today's world?
 2. How can you guard your heart against deception, both spiritual and cultural?
 3. What does Israel's story teach you about God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises?
 4. How can studying prophecy strengthen your hope instead of your fear?
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Day 3: Live with the End in Mind

READ

Matthew 25:1–13 – The parable of the ten virgins (the wise and the foolish)

Matthew 25:14–30 – The parable of the talents (faithfulness while waiting)

Revelation 3:14–22 – Jesus' warning to the lukewarm church

1 Peter 1:13–16 – "Prepare your minds for action... be holy in all you do."

2 Peter 3:10–14 – "Since everything will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be?"

REFLECT

In Matthew 25, Jesus told three parables about waiting. Each one carries the same theme: be ready, stay faithful, and keep the fire burning.

We do not prepare for Christ's return by panic-buying toilet paper (why is always toilet paper?) or by scrolling headlines. We prepare by living every day with spiritual urgency, as if He could return tomorrow, and we would want Him to find us fully alive in His purpose today. This means we also do not sit on our hands doing nothing, waiting for His return.

1. Keep Your Lamp Lit (Matthew 25:1–13)

Jesus described ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom. Five were wise, and five were foolish.

The wise ones kept oil in their lamps. The foolish ones let theirs run dry.

The oil represents intimacy, our personal relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit burning within us. It cannot be borrowed, performed, or inherited. You cannot live off someone else's faith.

In our culture of burnout and constant activity, it is easy to look spiritually busy but be spiritually empty. Read the Word. Stay in prayer. Keep your oil filled. When Jesus returns, it will not matter how impressive our lives looked. What will matter is how connected our hearts were.

2. Steward What You Have Been Given (Matthew 25:14–30)

The faithful servants in the parable did not bury what they were given. They invested it. They did not wait for ideal conditions; they worked with what they had.

We live in a culture that measures success by likes, wealth, and visibility. But Jesus measures success by faithfulness. You do not have to do everything. You only have to do what He has asked you to do. Every moment of obedience multiplies into something eternal.

What has God placed in your hands? A family? A job? A platform? A neighborhood?

Use it well. The Master is coming back, and He will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

3. Do Not Grow Lukewarm (Revelation 3:14–22)

The church of Laodicea had everything (money, comfort, and self-sufficiency) but Jesus said they were lukewarm. They had lost hunger for holiness.

That warning still applies today. We live in a culture that values comfort over conviction. But Jesus is still knocking on the door, inviting us to wake up, to trade apathy for intimacy, distraction for devotion, and self-focus for surrender. To stay on fire in our mission and in vision - spreading the Gospel, crafting our lives to follow Jesus' rather than staying stuck or stagnant.

It is not about doing more, per say. It's about using our times, talents, and treasures to help the next person see the love of Jesus'. It is about burning brighter. Faithfulness in the end times looks like a church that refuses to fall asleep when the world drifts off.

4. Live Holy and Hopeful

Peter asked, “Since everything will be destroyed, what kind of people ought you to be?” His answer was simple: be holy and godly as you look forward to the day of God.

Holiness is not perfection or trying harder. It means living your everyday life, your conversations, your relationships, your habits, in sync with heaven's values. Focusing our minds not on fear but on what is right, noble and pure. It's almost like living right now with the end in mind.

We stay ready by keeping our hearts pure, our mission centered, and our hope anchored.

JOURNAL

1. What does “keeping your lamp lit” look like for you right now? Are there areas where your oil feels low?
2. Where might God be asking you to be faithful with what is already in your hands?

3. Have comfort or distractions dulled your spiritual hunger? What needs to change this week to reignite that passion?
4. If Jesus returned tomorrow, what would you want Him to find you doing and what would you want left undone?
5. What practical steps can you take today to stay awake, stay faithful, and stay full of hope?