

Session 8: The End Times and what they mean for us

(First Pause)

Answer the following question:

What do you believe the future holds? What do others believe?

Answers will vary

(Second Pause)

Read Isaiah 65:17–25, Joel 2:28–32, Luke 21:5–36, John 14:1–3, 1

Thessalonians 4:16–17, and 2 Peter 3:10–13

How do these passages give you hope/certainty about the future?

Answers will vary

How do you see judgement reflected throughout these passages? What about resurrection/salvation?

Answers will vary

(Third Pause)

Match each major theme of eschatology with the associated pair of scriptures

The Second Coming of the Lord and the Defeat of Evil.		1 Corinthians 15:51–52 Revelation 20:11–15
The Resurrection and the Final Judgement.		Revelation 12 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12
The Kingdom of God and the Remaking of the World.		Revelation 19:11–16 Acts 1:9–11
Spiritual Warfare and Perseverance.		Romans 8:18–23 Revelation 21:1–5

(Fourth Pause)

Answer the following questions:

How can eschatology be a source of hope for Christians undergoing difficulty and persecution?

In the end, all will be set right with the world. Suffering and persecution (even martyrdom) are neither permanent nor final.

How does eschatology make you expectant and watchful for the final day?

We should look forward to the joys of the new heaven and earth, as well as justice and rest

How does eschatology encourage you to spread the Gospel and show love to people?

It reinforces how in need people are of saving. It shows us what the stakes really are

How would you argue to a fellow believer that the End Times are important for us (Christians globally) and them here and now?

Answers will vary

(Final Section)

Answer the following questions:

Premillennialism:	Christ will return, followed by a literal 1000-year reign on earth. Detailed prophetic timeline that we should be able to see reflected today and in history.
Amillennialism:	The millennium is purely symbolic of Christ's reign now. Satan is currently bound. God's Kingdom is currently being established.
Postmillennialism:	The Gospel is gradually transforming society for the better and, after a symbolic millennium, Christ will return to perfect this improvement, establish his kingdom, and bring about peace.
Panmillennialism:	"Don't worry, it will just pan out in the end as God wants it too."

Despite their differences, what are the similarities between these schools of thought? Why are they important?

Christ will return. God's Kingdom will be established. Dead will be raised and judged.

In what ways does the promise of a new heaven and new earth affect how we view our present world?

Things of this world are less valuable because they are all slated for destruction. See Jesus remark about storing up treasures in heaven in Matthew 6:19-21

How should what you have studied today impact your behaviour and your worldview?

Answers will vary



Material for further study:

Questions About Scripture

1. **What do Jesus' teachings in Matthew 24–25 tell us about the posture believers should have as we wait for His return?**
2. **How do Paul's writings in 1 Thessalonians shape our understanding of the resurrection and the Second Coming?**
3. **What images from Revelation 21–22 stand out to you the most when you think about the new creation?**
4. **In what ways does the promise of a new heaven and new earth affect how we view our present world?**
5. **How does belief in Christ's return give hope during times of suffering or injustice?**
6. **What practical steps can we take to live out the values of God's coming kingdom right now?**

Bible References on the End Times

1. Teachings of Jesus

- **Matthew 24–25** — Signs of the end, the parable of the ten virgins, talents, and the final judgment.
- **Mark 13** — Jesus' prophetic teaching about future events.
- **Luke 21:5–36** — Signs, watchfulness, and endurance.
- **John 14:1–3** — Jesus' promise to return for His people.

2. The Second Coming of Christ

- **Acts 1:9–11** — Angels proclaim Christ will return in the same way He ascended.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** — The Lord's descent, resurrection, and gathering of believers.
- **Revelation 19:11–16** — Christ returns as the conquering King.

3. Resurrection and Judgment

- **1 Corinthians 15:51–52** — The resurrection at the last trumpet.
- **John 5:28–29** — Resurrection of the righteous and the wicked.
- **Hebrews 9:27–28** — Judgment and Christ's return for salvation.
- **Revelation 20:11–15** — The great white throne judgment.

4. The Kingdom of God / New Creation



- **Isaiah 65:17–25** — A new heaven and new earth (OT preview).
- **Romans 8:18–23** — Creation waiting for restoration.
- **Revelation 21:1–5** — The new heaven, new earth, and God dwelling with humanity.

5. Spiritual Warfare / Perseverance

- **Ephesians 6:10–18** — Spiritual armour.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1–12** — The “man of lawlessness.”
- **Revelation 12** — The cosmic conflict and endurance of the saints.

6. Watchfulness and Faithful Living

- **Matthew 24:42–44** — Be ready; Christ comes unexpectedly.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1–6** — Live as children of the light.
- **2 Peter 3:10–13** — Holy living in light of the coming Day of the Lord.
- **Titus 2:11–13** — Waiting for the blessed hope.