

Discussion Questions

LifeGroups



Date: January 17, 2021

Sermon Series: What In The World Is Going On? Jesus' Words on the Future

Sermon Title: Possible Signs

Sermon Text: Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21

Bottom Line

The Bible makes it clear; no one knows specifically when Christ will return. But there are hints in the scriptures that can alert us to the nearness of His second coming.

Scripture

Mark 13:5-8 (NLT)

5 Jesus replied, "Don't let anyone mislead you, 6 for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. 7 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 8 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

Matthew 24:9-22 (NLT)

9 "Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. 10 And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. 11 And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. 15 "The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place." (Reader, pay attention!) 16 "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. 17 A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. 18 A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. 19 How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. 20 And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. 22 In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones.

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives...

Romans 16:25-27 (ESV)

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ... has been made known to all nations...

Luke 21:20 (NLT)

20 "And when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you will know that the time of its destruction has arrived."

Luke 21:24b (NLT)

And Jerusalem will be trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of the Gentiles comes to an end.

Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

Let's Start

Pastor Dale began his sermon by talking about some of the many predictions about the end of the world that have been spoken throughout history. Have you ever heard a prediction about the end of the world? What was it?

Let's Talk

1. The Bible makes it clear that no one knows specifically when Christ will return, but there are hints that can alert us to the nearness of His second coming. Read Mark 13:5-8. What does this passage teach us about history? How should we respond when the world faces various crises? Are they signs of Christ's return?
2. Read Matthew 24:9-14. How did Jesus' first disciples experience this prophecy in their lifetimes? Pastor Dale suggested that the "Whole world" and "All Nations" meant the known world at that time. Read what Paul wrote in Colossians 1:6 and Romans 16:25-27. Do you believe that Jesus' words could be a "double prophecy" alluding to the final end someday as well? Why or why not?
3. Read Matthew 24:15-22. How do these words relate to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.?
4. Read Luke 21:20. How do you think early followers of Jesus felt in 70 AD when they saw these events occur?

