

LifeGroup Study
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT (And I Feel Fine)
What's Next?
2022-03-06
Leader Notes

OVERVIEW:

Welcome back to our series, **IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT – AND I FEEL FINE!** There are key events at the end of the world that help us understand in broad ways **WHAT'S NEXT**. On Sunday we looked at a number of things like the millennium, the rapture, the second coming, the resurrection, the judgment, eternity and so on. We covered a lot of ground. The point was to help us understand a little bit better **WHAT'S NEXT** on the prophetic calendar. The ultimate goal is not that we have some kind of prophetic chart memorized but rather that we live our lives today with the confidence that God is large and in charge, that ultimately Jesus wins and that we need to be patient and ready for the return of Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: That Was Different Than I Expected!

You know what it's like to anticipate how you will experience an event, but when you show up, it's different than you anticipated. For example, perhaps the first time you came to church, you thought, "this is going to be boring" but it was different than you expected. What experience have you had recently where you would say, "That was different than I expected!" **Share your story with the group.**

STUDY:

1. On Sunday Ken taught the various viewpoints around what to expect in the future in terms of the return of Jesus, the millennium, the resurrection, judgment and eternity. There was a lot of material covered. A key study on Sunday was the various views of the Millennium. Let's have a quiz!
 - a. What does the word millennium mean?
 - b. How many different views of the millennium did Ken share on Sunday?
 - c. What were those three views called?
 - d. Describe the amillennial view.
 - e. Describe the postmillennial view.
 - f. Describe the premillennial view.
 - g. Which view do you embrace?
 - h. What questions do you have about what was shared on Sunday? Perhaps we can get some answers for you.

LEADER NOTE:

- a. 1,000
- b. 3
- c. Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Premillennialism
- d. We are in the millennium right now. Satan is bound. The 1,000 years are symbolic and not real. Jesus is returning at the end of the Millennium
- e. We are in the millennium right now. The gospel will grow in its influence until the vast majority of the world are believers. Then Jesus will return. The 1,000 years are symbolic
- f. Jesus will physically return to set up the Millennium. Before the millennium there will be a 7-year (or so) tribulation period. The rapture will happen before, in the middle or at the end of the tribulation period. Satan is not bound now but will be during the millennium
- g. ???

As we study the Scriptures that speak about end times, we see there is a room for a variety of interpretations for how and when these events unfold. Through our study of end times Scriptures, we can be encouraged by the truth that God is in control. We know the end of the story – God wins and we will be with Him forever. Our responsibility in the meantime is to live our lives to honour King Jesus.

The Bible teaches that there will be a series of resurrections, some to eternal life in heaven and some to damnation. As you read these resurrection and judgment passages, ask yourself, **“How should I live in light of the future resurrection and judgement?”**

2. READ: Daniel 12:2

“Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace.” NLT

This verse in Daniel teaches us the resurrection will not be the same for all people. Daniel identifies two distinct groups – some who will rise to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. **How might these two groups be distinguished?**

LEADER NOTE: Daniel clearly identifies the resurrection as a time when the way we’ve lived in this life impacts our eternal destiny. The resurrection will reveal the true nature of all people as we all stand to give an account before God. (see 2 Cor. 5:10). These two groups are distinguished by the way they’ve lived their lives. The righteous will rise to everlasting life. The wicked will rise to everlasting punishment.

3. READ: John 5:25-29

- **What does Jesus say in this passage about future resurrections?**

LEADER NOTE: In these verses Jesus tells us the future resurrection of every person is certain. Those who listen to the voice of the Son will rise to receive eternal life with Him. Those who “continue in evil” (vs. 29) will rise to judgement.

The First Great Resurrection

The first great resurrection will occur at the time of the rapture. This is the future event when all those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ will be raised to life with Him to meet Him in the air.

4. READ: John 14:1-3

In vs. 1 Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me.”

- **How do Jesus’ words encourage you as you look forward to a future resurrection?”**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus initially spoke these words to his disciples who were distraught at the news that He soon would be leaving them. These words give us significant encouragement in our day. Our future, including the end of our days here on earth and what happens after that, is in God’s hands. We don’t have to be troubled about it. Instead, we can trust in God. Because Jesus rose from the dead we have confident hope that one day we too will rise to be with Him.

5. READ: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

In vs. 13 Paul says he wants us to know what happens to believers in Jesus who have died. The reason, he says, is so “you will not grieve like people who have no hope.”

- **How does our hope in Jesus impact how we grieve for a follower of Jesus who dies?**

LEADER NOTE: Our hope is based on our belief that Jesus died and was raised to life again. Jesus’ resurrection is the source of our belief that one day we will be raised to life by Him. Paul doesn’t say believers shouldn’t grieve. He says we should not grieve like those who have no hope. When a loved one who is a believer in Jesus dies, we grieve with the hope that one day we will be united with Jesus and with them in heaven.

- **When Jesus returns at the rapture what will happen to believers who have died? (vs. 14)**

LEADER NOTE: Believers who have died will be raised up first (vs. 16) to receive their resurrection bodies, then they will meet Jesus in the air (vs. 17) and be with Him forever.

The Resurrection at Jesus' Second Coming

Another great resurrection will occur when Jesus returns a second time after the Tribulation. At this time, everyone who comes to faith during the Tribulation will be raised to life to be with Him.

6. READ: Revelation 20:1-6

In these verses we read of a second great resurrection of believers, many who are killed for their faith during the tribulation. Verse 6 speaks of the confidence we have that these believers will be united with Christ. **How does this verse encourage you?**

LEADER NOTE: There are various perspectives as to the timing of the second resurrection related to the Tribulation (7 year period of calamity and suffering on earth) and the Millennium (Christ's thousand year reign on earth). Regardless of how this timing plays out, these prophecies offer us hope in the midst of pain, suffering and confusion in this world.

7. READ: Job 19:25-27

Job and other Old Testament believers in God anticipated they would one day be resurrected to be with Him. **How could they have this hope?**

LEADER NOTE: Although Job and other Old Testament believers did not know the specific identity of this Redeemer God would send, they had faith that God would provide a way for them to be raised to life one day. Their hope was based on their confident trust in the character and love of God.

Future Judgments

Believer's Judgement – The Lamb's Book of Life

8. READ: Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10

- **What do we learn from these verses about who will be at this judgment and what the outcome will be?**

LEADER NOTE: We are told in these verses that this judgement will be for those who are believers in Christ. Rather than being condemned for our bad deeds, we will be judged on the quality of our good deeds – what we have done for Christ while on this earth. The outcome of this judgment will be eternal life.

Unbeliever's Judgment – The Great White Throne

9. READ: Revelation 20:11-15

- **What do we learn in these verses about who will be judged at this time and what the outcome will be?**

LEADER NOTES: The Great White Throne judgment is a time when everyone who has lived will stand before God to give an account for the way they have lived. All whose names are written in the Book of Life will receive eternal life. Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire.

10. READ 2 Corinthians 15:51-58

These verses are a wonderful reminder to us that in the end God will make everything right and we will be with Him in heaven forever. **How do these words encourage you to live for Jesus?**

LEADER NOTE: In verse 58, Paul writes, "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." This is a wonderful encouragement for us today. As we anticipate Jesus' return and our future transformation, we can live our days with passion and purpose as we follow Jesus and point others to Him. This is why we can say, "It's the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine!"

PRAYER

This week let's pray for our Kids Ministry at Creekside.

- As restrictions are lifted, pray we are able to grow our volunteer team as families return to in-person church.
- Pray for outreach opportunities as we plan to re-open playground ministry to community families.
- Pray that our programs are effective in helping kids Follow Jesus, Love God, Love People.