



This Is Not the End

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Focus Believers need to know what the Bible says about the times we are living in and understand how to walk through them with hope and faith.

Fun What endings do you anticipate? A couple of examples would be the end of a workday or the end of a movie. Can you think of others? How do you know when that end is approaching?

Review Key Scriptures: Genesis 6, Genesis 18–19; Exodus 32:25–35; Numbers 8:5–22, 13:27–33, 16:44–50, 25:1–13; 2 Chronicles 7:12–14; Psalm 23:4, 106:23, 106:29–30; Isaiah 6; Amos 3:7; Matthew 24:3–8; Luke 17:20–37, 21:34–36; Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13–5:11; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 6:7–8 (KJV), 6:14–17, 19:1–21

1. This is not the end. Jesus addresses the signs of the end times in Luke 17, comparing His return to the days of Noah and Lot. The similarities between the days of Noah and Lot and the days we are living in are:
 - rampant immorality and violence;
 - a business-as-usual atmosphere (Luke 17:27–28);
 - righteous remnant living in a corrupt world; and
 - sudden rescue of the righteous before God's wrath falls.

Jesus told us we don't know the day or hour, but we know the signs of the times. He spoke of these signs to comfort us. The Second Coming of Jesus is a physical and public event that takes place on the Mount of Olives, and every eye will see Him. The rapture of the Church is a private event between Jesus and His bride. We are not of darkness but of the light. Jesus told us to be alert and

pray that we might be counted worthy to escape the coming judgement (Luke 21:34–36).

2. You are not alone. Psalm 23:4 tells us, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me” Pastor Jimmy Evans said, “Fear is reality minus God. Faith is reality plus God.” Like Joshua and Caleb believed God would give them victory over giants living in the land, we must believe that God will give us victory over our troubles. God has power over everything, including COVID-19. In Philippians 4:6–7, we are given a promise. If we won’t worry but pray, we will receive the peace of God that will guard our hearts and minds.
3. This is not our home! In Luke 17:32, Jesus reminds us not to be like Lot’s wife, who looked back with longing. Our home is not here but with God in His presence. Christian author Randy Alcorn once said: “You can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.” In other words, as you serve the Lord, you are gathering riches in eternity. Look not at the temporal here on earth but toward eternity.

Group Dynamics Idea Unite714 is a prayer movement of churches around the world. Learn more and get involved at unite714.com.

Discuss

1. In Amos 3:7, we learn that God doesn’t move on something unless He’s first revealed it to His prophets. Why did God reveal His coming judgment on the world to Noah? (Genesis 6)
2. Why did God reveal His coming judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham before revealing it to Lot? What were the differences in how God revealed things to Abraham and Lot? (Genesis 18–19)
3. God uses intercessors to mitigate for His people against plagues. Look at Aaron standing in the gap for his people in Numbers 16:44–50, Moses’s intercession in Exodus 32:25–35, and Phineas’s intervention in Numbers 25:1–13. What caused the plagues? What was used to intercede?
4. Compare Numbers 8:5–22 (focusing on verse 19) to 1 Peter 2:9.

5. If the Old Testament priesthood and the Levites had the power to mitigate plagues, what about the people God declares to be His royal priesthood?
6. If one man can grab a censer and stop a plague, what can the body of Christ do to COVID-19? How can we the Church unite, pray, and intercede?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- This is not the end.
- You are not alone.
- This is not our home!

Prayer Father God, thank You for receiving us into Your throne room by the blood of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your presence, we are undone—our sins revealed and our pride melted. We fall before You asking for forgiveness of our sins. We pray for mercy for our families, our neighborhoods, our cities, our state, our nation, and our world. Unite us, Your Church, to fight for the lost. We confess our great need for You, and we ask You to intercede to stop this plague of COVID-19. We don't deserve Your mercy and grace, but we believe in Your great love that sent Jesus to die on our behalf. We plead His blood to wash away our sins. May hardened hearts melt and turn to You. Open the eyes of the blind, Lord, that they might see You and experience Your peace. Father, we praise Your great name. You alone are worthy, and You are more powerful than any virus. Thank You for Your presence during this time. May Your peace and joy fall on Your people that we might take You to all the nations and testify of Your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Encourage your group members to text CONNECT to 71010 for prayer or support during this time. If someone has made a decision to follow Christ, they can text DECISION to 71010 to be connected to a Gateway leader. Join the movement at unite714.com to pray for our nation. Also be sure to spread the word about our blood drive in partnership with Carter BloodCare. Find more information on the drive at carterbloodcare.org/gatewaydrives.