## How should we live in light of God's prophetic plan?

PASTOR MIKE YODER • MATTHEW 24



# What gives motivation and legitimacy to our interest in God's future plan?

1. It is (fallen) human nature to look to the future with a degree of fear and foreboding.

2. At certain times in history or our own circumstances, we become focused on the future.

3. We want reassurance that things work out in the end — personally and cosmically.

4. Bible readers know that many passages speak about the future of God's plan.

# How did Jesus and His followers address questions about the future?

Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21

Acts 1:6-8, 2:16-21

1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4–5

2 Thessalonians 2; 2 Timothy 3–4

Titus 2:11–13; James 5:7–9; 1 Peter 4:7–11

2 Peter 3

Revelation

#### What were some key messages that Jesus and His followers gave?

1. Future opposition to God, including His plan and His people, will increase. Believers should not be surprised, but be alert.

2. God's people should be aware of, but not preoccupied with, the timing of God's plan. Our call is to mission.

3. Followers of Jesus have no reason to fear death and what comes thereafter. Instead, we have hope.

4. Those who are most aware of the end times should be most transformed for godly living in the present.

5. Knowing God give us hope and confidence in His inevitable victory, not fear and distress.

#### What pillars do we lean on as we face an uncertain future in our lives?

## 1. God's sovereignty means He knows exactly what He is doing.



#### 2. God's redemption has dealt the decisive blow to sin in our world.



## 3. God's grace prevents us from fully knowing the future.



# 4. God's holiness expects His children to live in light of our identity.

## 5. God's presence provides us with all that we need to persevere.



## 6. God's mercy calls us to live in a lost world with Gospel urgency.



#### 7. God's judgment means that all evil will be addressed in the end.



And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

"'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

"Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My children."

## Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.

