

The End of the Beginning (and the Beginning of the End)

August 30, 2020 Discussion Notes

Everyone is encouraged to bring a Bible

(Phone apps are good for reading together in the same translation. Study Bibles give help with interpretation.)



THE END OF THE BEGINNING

(AND THE BEGINNING OF THE END)

- THERE IS AN END COMING
- THE SPECIFICS ARE UNKNOWN
- FOCUS ON WHAT IS KNOWN
- GET BUSY
- BE PREPARED (NEXT WEEK)



Questions:

1. Why do you think people are so interested in the future? Do you find yourself drawn to that subject?
2. When you think of Christ's return, is it something that scares you or excites you?
3. What do you remember about the sermon (review the main points above)? Did anything impact or challenge you? Do you have any questions?
4. Read Matthew 24:1-35
 - a) What important warning about spiritual deception did Jesus issue? (vv. 23-26)
 - b) How will true believers recognize Jesus' return? (vv. 27-30)
 - c) What heavenly signs and aberrations will accompany the return of Christ? (v. 29)
 - d) What part did Jesus say the angels of God would play in His return? (v. 31)
 - e) How is it helpful that Jesus didn't give us a specific time or date for His return?
 - f) What are some current examples of false prophets deceiving people?
 - g) What signs do you see that we may be close to the beginning of the end?
 - h) How could you use this passage to talk to a nonbeliever about Jesus?
5. Read Matthew 24:36-51
 - a) How will most people react when the end comes? (vv. 38-41)
 - b) What illustrations did Jesus use to show the suddenness of His return? (vv. 40-41)
 - c) To what did Jesus liken His coming? Why? (vv. 43-44)
 - d) What qualities did Jesus say His servants will need to be ready for His coming? (vv. 45-47)
 - e) How would you react if you knew a thief would try to burglarize your home or apartment tonight?
 - f) What steps can you take today to be a better steward of the gifts and information God has entrusted to you?
6. Read Matthew 25:1-13
 - a) Why were some of the virgins described as "foolish"?
 - b) What made some of the virgins "wise"?
 - c) What happened to the bridegroom?
 - d) When did the bridegroom arrive and the wedding banquet begin?
 - e) How did the bridegroom respond when some virgins wanted to come to the wedding late?
 - f) With what warning did Jesus conclude this parable? Why?
 - g) What responsibility does each Christian have before God?
 - h) Why do we tend to think (and act like) we have all the time in the world to get ready for Christ's return?
 - i) What spiritual preparation do you need to make today in order to "keep watch"?
7. Spend some time praying that God would help you be prepared for Christ's return. Pray for those who don't yet know Him. And pray for any specific needs in your group.