



# *Questions About the End Times*

*A GotQuestions.org Bible Study*





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# ***How to Use This Bible Study***

*Welcome to the Got Questions Bible Study! We're so glad you're here!*

In these studies you will find GotQuestions content, Bible search questions to dig deeper, and heartfelt questions to spark reflection and discussion. Whether you are a new or seasoned believer, using these Bible studies for personal study or as a small group/Sunday School resource, we hope you will increase in your understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ and that you will seek Him more passionately.

*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*  
– Jeremiah 29:13

These Bible studies are tools to help you grow in your knowledge of the topics at hand. However, knowing about God is not the same as actually knowing Him. God invites each of us to know Him personally and to have eternal life through Him.

Throughout this study, there will be information to read and questions to answer. Next to the questions will be icons. Here is your key to understanding them:



Content Qs



Engage Qs



Bible Look Up Qs



Reflection Qs

If we place our faith in Him, trusting in His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we will be forgiven and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*  
– John 3:16

If you have not yet trusted in Him for salvation or are unsure if you are saved, please visit: [www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/eternal-life.html).

May God richly bless you as you seek to study His Word and grow in your walk with Him (Joshua 1:8)!





# Lesson 1:

## How can I overcome my fear of the end of days?

*The best way to overcome a fear of the end of days is to be spiritually prepared for it. First and foremost, you must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in order to have eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10). Only through Him can you receive forgiveness of sin and have eternity with God. If God is your Father, there's really nothing to worry about (Luke 12:32).*



***What fears or questions do you have about the end of days? If you don't have any, think back to a period of time when you did. What questions or fears did you have, and what helped you become less fearful or worried?***

Second, every Christian should live a life worthy of the calling we have in Christ. Ephesians 4:1-3 teaches, "Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience,

bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (ESV). Knowing Christ and walking in His will go a long way towards diminishing fear of any kind.



**How do the following help you diminish fear, especially of the end times?**

**Knowing Christ:**

**Living in a manner worthy of the calling you have been called:**

**Living in community:**

Third, Christians are told what will happen in the end, and it's encouraging. First Thessalonians 4:13-18 notes,

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left*

*until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (ESV).*



**From the passage above, what can we know for sure will happen in the end times? How can we encourage others with these truths?**



***How can being informed of God’s heart and plan and end time events help us have hope and resist being fearful about the end times?***



***What do we learn about God’s character in seeing that He wants us to be informed?***

Rather than fearing the future, we are called to anticipate the future with joy. Why? In Christ, we will be “caught up” to meet Him and we “will always be with the Lord.”

Further, Scripture says we do not need to fear Judgment Day: “By this is love perfected with us, so that we may

have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love” (1 John 4:17-18, ESV).



***What about the future and end times do you anticipate with joy? On what aspects of the future and end times do you need more biblical information to grow in faith and confidence?***

The apostle Peter reveals that, even if our future holds suffering, we need not fear: “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed” (1 Peter 3:14, ESV). Peter and many other early believers endured much hardship and even death because of their faith in Christ. Suffering is not to be feared; it is a blessing when it is borne for the name of Jesus.

Those who do not know Christ do not have the promise of peace for the future. For them, there is a real concern because they have not settled the issue of where they will spend eternity. Those who do know Christ do not fear the end of days. Instead, we strive to live a life worthy of our calling, live with confidence, suffer patiently, anticipate Jesus’ return, and rest in the knowledge that our times are in His hands (Psalm 31:15).



***If you are a believer, what assurances does God give you so you can live with hope and not fear? What encouragement do you personally receive in knowing that God wants us to know Him and “not be uninformed”?***

***If you are not a believer, God has a plan for humanity. He wants all to come to salvation by believing in Jesus’ death and resurrection (1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2). While not everyone will make this decision, it will not be because He did not make Himself known or offer salvation to everyone. For those who do trust in Jesus as their Savior, they have assurance that their sins are forgiven, and they do not need to fear death or the end times. If you have not yet trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, we encourage you to read this article ([www.gotquestions.org/plan-of-salvation.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/plan-of-salvation.html)) and respond today.***





## *Lesson 2:*

# What is the rapture of the church?

*The word rapture does not occur in the Bible. The term comes from a Latin word meaning “a carrying off, a transport, or a snatching away.” The concept of the “carrying off” or the rapture of the church is clearly taught in Scripture.*



***There are many topics, words, or concepts not specifically mentioned in the Bible that are still true. For example, the Trinity, the Bible, and mathematics. How does this impact your thinking about the rapture?***



***How can we see the Bible as God’s Word and the foundation for all truth yet not a comprehensive book about everything in existence?***



The rapture of the church is the event in which God “snatches away” all believers from the earth in order to make way for His righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth during the tribulation period. The rapture is described primarily in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50–54. God will resurrect all believers who have died, give them glorified bodies, and take them from the earth, along with all living believers, who will

also be given glorified bodies at that time. “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).



***Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. What details about the rapture are highlighted in these passages?***

The rapture will involve an instantaneous transformation of our bodies to fit us for eternity. “We know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). The rapture is to be distinguished from the second coming. At the rapture, the Lord comes “in the clouds” to meet us

“in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). At the second coming, the Lord descends all the way to the earth to stand on the Mount of Olives, resulting in a great earthquake followed by a defeat of God’s enemies (Zechariah 14:3–4).



***In what ways will we be like Christ “for we shall see him as he is”? See Romans 8:18-30 and Philippians 3:20-21.***

The doctrine of the rapture was not taught in the Old Testament, which is why Paul calls it a “mystery” now revealed: “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51–52).



***How does the hope of an imperishable body give you perspective on the difficulties and disappointments of this life?***

The rapture of the church is a glorious event we should all be longing for. We will finally be free from sin. We will be in God’s presence forever. There is far too much debate over the meaning and scope of the rapture. This is not God’s intent. Rather, the rapture should be a comforting doctrine full of hope; God wants us to “encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18).



***How does the doctrine of the rapture fill you with hope? Write down at least three ways the promise of the rapture gives you hope. Who is someone you can encourage this week with the hope of Christ’s return?***



# Lesson 3:

## What is the tribulation?

*The tribulation is a future seven-year period when God will finish His discipline of Israel and finalize His judgment of the unbelieving world. The church, comprised of all who have trusted in the person and work of the Lord Jesus, will not be present during the tribulation (Got Questions Ministries takes a pretribulation approach to eschatology). The church will be removed from the earth in an event called the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15:51–53). In this way, the church is saved from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 5:9).*



***While Got Questions Ministries takes a pretribulation approach to eschatology, we realize that this is a debatable topic. Why is it important to have biblical convictions while being gracious to others who hold different positions on non-essential doctrines? How have you seen this modeled in a God-honoring, beneficial way?***



Throughout Scripture, the tribulation is associated with the day of the Lord, that time during which God personally intervenes in history to accomplish His plan (see Isaiah 2:12; 13:6–9; Joel 1:15; 2:1–31; 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is referred to as “tribulation . . . in the latter days” (Deuteronomy 4:30, ESV); the great tribulation, which refers to the more intense second half of the seven-year period (Matthew 24:21); “a time of distress” (Daniel 12:1); and “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7, NKJV). And we have this description of the tribulation that attends the day of the Lord:

anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— a day of trumpet and battle cry” (Zephaniah 1:15–16).

The tribulation will be marked by various divine judgments, celestial disturbances, natural disasters, and terrible plagues (see Revelation 6–16). In His mercy, God sets a limit on the duration of the tribulation. As Jesus said, “Those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive” (Mark 13:19–20).

“That day will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and



***Look up the following verses. What do they tell us about the judgments (seals, trumpets, and bowls) to come during the tribulation?***

***Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1-5:***

***Revelation 8:6-9:21; 11:15-19:***

***Revelation 16:1-21:***

Daniel 9:24–27 reveals the purpose and time of the tribulation. This passage speaks of 70 weeks that have been declared against “your people.” Daniel’s people are the Jews, the nation of Israel, and Daniel 9:24 speaks of a period of time in which God’s purpose is “to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone

for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.” God declares that “seventy sevens” will fulfill all these things. The “sevens” are groups of years, so 70 sevens is 490 years. (Some translations refer to 70 “weeks” of years.)



***Look up Daniel 9:24-27, 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, and Revelation 3:10. What do these verses tell us about the purpose of the tribulation?***



## **What do those verses also teach us about God and about people?**

In Daniel 9:25 and 26, the Messiah will be cut off after “seven sevens and sixty-two sevens” (69 total sevens), beginning with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. In other words, 69 sevens (483 years) after the decree to rebuild is issued, the Messiah will die. Biblical historians confirm that 483 years passed from the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the time when Jesus was crucified. Most Christian scholars, regardless of their view of eschatology, have the above understanding of Daniel’s 70 sevens.

God said that 70 weeks had been determined (490 years), but, with the death of the Messiah, we only have 69 weeks accounted for (483 years). This leaves one seven-year period to be fulfilled “to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place” (Daniel 9:24). This final seven-year period is what we call the tribulation—the time when God finishes judging Israel and brings them back to Himself.



**From [www.gotquestions.org/all-Israel-saved.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/all-Israel-saved.html):**

***In the Day of the Lord, God will ‘reclaim the surviving remnant of his people’ (Isaiah 11:11). Jesus Christ will return and destroy the armies gathered against Him in rebellion (Revelation 19). Sinners will be judged, and the faithful remnant of Israel will be set apart forever as God’s holy people (Zechariah 13:8–14:21). Isaiah 12 is their song of deliverance; Zion will rule over all the nations under the banner of Messiah the King.***

***God has a plan for Israel, and He has always had a plan for Israel. In Genesis 12:1-3, we see that God’s plan involved all people on the earth being blessed because of Israel. In what ways has Israel been a blessing to the world?***

Daniel 9:27 gives a few highlights of the final week, the seven-year tribulation period: “[A ruler] will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” Jesus refers to this passage in Matthew 24:15. The ruler who confirms the covenant and then sets up the abomination is called “the beast” in Revelation 13. According to Daniel 9:27, the beast’s covenant will be for seven years, but in the middle of this week (3 ½ years into the tribulation), the beast will break the covenant, putting a stop to the Jewish sacrifices. Revelation 13 explains that the beast will place an image of himself in the temple and require the world to worship him. Revelation 13:5 says that this will go on for 42 months, which is 3 ½ years (the second half of the tribulation). So, we see a covenant lasting to the middle of the “week” (Daniel 9:27) and the beast who made the covenant demanding worship for 42 months (Revelation 13:5). Therefore, the total length of time is

84 months or seven years.

We also have a reference to the last half of the tribulation in Daniel 7:25. There, the ruler will oppress God’s people for “a time, times and half a time” (time=1 year; times=2 years; half a time=½ year; total of 3 ½ years). This time of oppression against the Jews is also described in Revelation 13:5–7 and is part of the “great tribulation,” the last half of the seven-year tribulation when the beast, or the Antichrist, will be in power.

A further reference to the timing of events in the tribulation is found in Revelation 11:2–3, which speaks of 1,260 days and 42 months (both equaling 3 ½ years, using the “prophetic year” of 360 days). Also, Daniel 12:11–12 speaks of 1,290 days and 1,335 days from the midpoint of the tribulation. The additional days in Daniel 12 may include time after the tribulation for the judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31–46) and time for the setting up of Christ’s millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:4–6).



***Read Jeremiah 25:11-14. God prophesied of the judgment to come upon Israel through Babylon, yet He limited it to 70 years. What do we learn about God’s character in limiting the length of judgment as well as communicating it?***

In summary, the tribulation is the seven-year period in the end times in which humanity’s decadence and depravity will reach its fullness, with God judging accordingly. Also during that time, Israel will repent

of their sin and receive Jesus as their Messiah, setting up a time of great blessing and restoration (Zephaniah 3:9–20; Isaiah 12; 35).





***What aspects of God's character are expressed in the tribulation?***



***How does knowing that God judges sin and evil cause you to respond? Thank God that there is a limit to sin, suffering, and evil and also that there is a limit to His judgment.***



# Lesson 4:

## What is the Antichrist?

*First John 2:18 speaks of the Antichrist: “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.” The specific term antichrist is used five times in Scripture, twice here in 1 John 2:18 and once in 1 John 2:22; 4:3; and 2 John 1:7. So, what is this Antichrist that the apostle John refers to?*



***How do you define evil? How do you see evil presenting itself in the world?***

The meaning of the term antichrist is simply “against Christ.” As the apostle John records in First and Second John, an antichrist denies the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22), does not acknowledge Jesus (1 John

4:3), and denies that Jesus came in the flesh (2 John 1:7). There have been many “antichrists,” as 1 John 2:18 states. But there is a specific Antichrist coming in the future.



***Looking at the passages in the previous paragraph as well as other passages you can think of, what makes someone or something “against Christ”?***

Most Bible prophecy/eschatology experts believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the end times/last hour, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will seek world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.



***Read 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. In the end times, the Antichrist will work as Satan does. What do these verses tell us about how Satan works?***



Other biblical references to the Antichrist include the following:

The imposing, boastful king of Daniel 7 who oppresses the Jews and tries to “change the set times and the laws” (verse 25).

The leader who establishes a 7-year covenant with Israel and then breaks it in Daniel 9.

The king who sets up the abomination of desolation in Mark 13:14 (cf. Daniel 9:27).

The man of lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12.

The rider on a white horse (representing his claim to be a man of peace) in Revelation 6:2.

The first beast—the one from the sea—in Revelation 13.

This beast receives power from the dragon (Satan) and speaks “proud words and blasphemies” (verse 5) and wages war against the saints (verse 7).



***Look up 1 Chronicles 29:11, Job 42:2, Jeremiah 10:12, 1 Corinthians 6:14, and Colossians 1:16. What do these verses tell us about God’s power contrasted with the Antichrist’s power?***

Thankfully, the Antichrist/beast, along with his false prophet, will be thrown into the lake of fire, where they

will spend all eternity in torment (Revelation 19:20; 20:10).



***What comfort do you have in knowing the Antichrist has limits imposed by God?***

What is the Antichrist? In summary, the Antichrist is the end-times false messiah who seeks, and likely achieves, world domination so that he can destroy Israel and all followers of Jesus Christ.



***Look up Colossians 2:8, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, 2 Timothy 3:13, and 1 John 4:1. In what ways do these verses highlight the fact that God does not want us to be deceived?***



***How can we guard against and have discernment toward current antichrists?***



***Spend some time worshipping God for exposing evil and wanting us to not be deceived. Praise God that He is all-powerful and that there will be a limit to evil, Satan, and the Antichrist.***

## Lesson 5:

# What is the mark of the beast?

*The main passage in the Bible that mentions the “mark of the beast” is Revelation 13:16-18. Other references can be found in Revelation 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; and 20:4. This mark acts as a seal for the followers of the Antichrist and the false prophet (the spokesperson for the Antichrist). The false prophet (the second beast) is the one who causes people to take this mark. The mark is literally placed on the hand or forehead and is not simply a card someone carries.*



**Look up the verses listed above. What do we learn about the mark of the beast?**

The recent breakthroughs in medical implant chip and RFID technologies have increased interest in the mark of the beast spoken of in Revelation chapter 13. It is possible that the technology we are seeing today represents the beginning stages of what may eventually be used as the mark of the beast. It is important to realize that a medical implant chip is not the mark

of the beast. The mark of the beast will be something given only to those who worship the Antichrist. Having a medical or financial microchip inserted into your right hand or forehead is not the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast will be an end-times identification required by the Antichrist in order to buy or sell, and it will be given only to those who worship the Antichrist.





***Many people have feared new technology as the mark of the beast (bar codes, ID cards and patches, microchips, medical devices, etc). While new technology could be used as the mark of the beast, write out in your own words the absolute defining aspects of the mark of the beast.***

***From: <https://www.gotquestions.blog/COVID-19-vaccine.html>:***

***In summary, the mark of the beast will be recognizable by the following five items:***

- (1) It will be instituted in the end times during the reign of the Antichrist. See Revelation chapter 13.***
- (2) It will be required for anyone to be able to buy or sell. See Revelation 13:17.***
- (3) Some form of worship of and/or allegiance to the Antichrist will be required to receive it. See Revelation 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; and 20:4.***
- (4) It will somehow relate to the number 666. See Revelation 13:18.***
- (5) Anyone who refuses to take the mark of the beast will be killed. See Revelation 13:15.***

Many good expositors of Revelation differ widely as to the exact nature of the mark of the beast. Besides the implanted chip view, other speculations include an ID card, a microchip, a barcode that is tattooed into the skin, or simply a mark that identifies someone as being faithful to the Antichrist's kingdom. This last view

requires the least speculation, since it does not add any more information to what the Bible gives us. In other words, any of these things are possible, but at the same time they are all speculations. We should not spend a lot of time speculating on the precise details.

**From: [www.gotquestions.org/unknowingly-take-mark-of-the-beast.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/unknowingly-take-mark-of-the-beast.html):**

***The fact that we don't know what form the mark will take can cause apprehension in some. However, according to the Bible, unknowing acceptance of the mark is impossible. Taking the mark will be a deliberate act of worshiping the image of the beast (Revelation 13:15–16). The signs of who the beast is will be unmistakable, and no one will accidentally worship him. People will have a choice. That choice will carry severe consequences one way or the other (see Revelation 13:17 and 14:9–10), but the choice will be clear.***

***Regardless of what the mark of the beast is finally revealed to be, God has a proven track record of allowing individual choice (see Genesis 2:16–17). We all have a choice to make in this age concerning Jesus Christ. How much better it is to accept Christ today and avoid the perilous time of the coming Antichrist.***



***What assurance do you have and how can you assure others that the mark of the beast will be a choice that cannot be forced upon you and that you cannot take unknowingly?***

The meaning of 666 is a mystery as well. Some speculated that there was a connection to June 6, 2006—06/06/06. However, in Revelation chapter 13, the number 666 identifies a person, not a date. Revelation 13:18 tells us, “This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.” Somehow, the number 666 will identify

the Antichrist. For centuries Bible interpreters have been trying to identify certain individuals with 666. Nothing is conclusive. That is why Revelation 13:18 says the number requires wisdom. When the Antichrist is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4), it will be clear who he is and how the number 666 identifies him.

***From: [www.gotquestions.org/saved-after-mark-beast.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/saved-after-mark-beast.html)***

***Revelation 14:10–11, describing the fate of someone who takes the mark of the beast, declares, “He also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name” (ESV).***

***The eternal destiny of those who take the mark of the beast is the lake of fire. Why is taking the mark of the beast a damnable sin against God? Why would God condemn a person to hell for taking the mark of the beast? It would appear that taking the mark of the beast will be a blasphemous act of willful defiance against God. Receiving the mark of the beast is essentially worshiping Satan. Those who take the mark have made the choice to serve Satan rather than obey God and receive Christ as Savior. When people make that decision during the tribulation, God will grant their request to be eternally separated from Him.***



***Having learned that Satan and the Antichrist want to deceive and that God wants us to know and respond to the truth, how are you intentionally pursuing truth and allowing it to shape your perspective, attitudes, desires, and actions?***



## Lesson 6:

# What is the millennial kingdom, and should it be understood literally?

*The millennial kingdom is the title given to the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. Some seek to interpret the 1,000 years in an allegorical manner. They understand the 1,000 years as merely a figurative way of saying “a long period of time,” not a literal, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. However, six times in Revelation 20:2-7, the millennial kingdom is specifically said to be 1,000 years in length. If God wished to communicate “a long period of time,” He could have easily done so without explicitly and repeatedly mentioning an exact time frame.*



***After the tribulation, Satan is bound for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). How would the world look differently without Satan? What would not be different?***

The Bible tells us that when Christ returns to the earth He will establish Himself as king in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (Luke 1:32–33). The unconditional covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant promised Israel a land, a posterity and ruler, and a

spiritual blessing (Genesis 12:1–3). The Palestinian Covenant promised Israel a restoration to the land and occupation of the land (Deuteronomy 30:1–10). The Davidic Covenant promised Israel a king from David’s line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies (2 Samuel 7:10–13).





**Look up the following passages. What promises are yet to be fulfilled?**  
**Genesis 12:1-3:**

**Deuteronomy 30:1-10:**

**2 Samuel 7:10-13:**

At the second coming, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is re-gathered from the nations (Matthew 24:31), converted (Zechariah 12:10–14), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace (Micah 4:2–4; Isaiah 32:17–18), joy (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and comfort (Isaiah 40:1–2).

The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (Jeremiah 31:33), holiness (Isaiah 35:8), truth (Isaiah 65:16), and the knowledge of God (Isaiah 11:9; Habakkuk 2:14). Christ will rule as king (Isaiah 9:3–7; 11:1–10). Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3).



**Look up the following verses. Who will occupy the millennial kingdom?**  
**Matthew 24:22:**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:**

**Revelation 20:4-6:**

**Isaiah 2:2-4:**

**Ezekiel 34:17-24:**



***Daniel 7:13-14:***

***Daniel 12:2:***

***Micah 4:1-5:***

***Zechariah 14:8-21:***

***From [www.gotquestions.org/millennial-kingdom.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/millennial-kingdom.html):***

***During the millennial kingdom, the saints in earthly, natural bodies will enjoy long lives (Isaiah 65:20), and they will produce children. By the end of the thousand years, the world is fully populated, and there are many—“in number they are like the sand on the seashore”—who rebel against the Lord (Revelation 20:7–8). Children born during the millennial kingdom will have the responsibility to exercise faith in Christ, the same as all people of past ages.***



***The millennial kingdom will be a period of 1,000 years before sin and death are permanently destroyed, Satan is cast into the lake of fire, and God creates the new heaven and new earth. What do you think it will be like to live in a time and place where Jesus is king, Satan is bound, and resurrected humans live with earthly humans who survived the tribulation and their offspring?***



***Jesus will literally reign over the earth for 1,000 years and then for eternity. Revelation 19:16 says that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, which also means He is the rightful king of our lives. What does your life reveal about who or what is king in your life? What does it look like for Jesus to be king of your life? If you need to repent of an area where He is not the king or lord of your life, do so. God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness if we come to Him (1 John 1:9).***



# Lesson 7:

## Why is God going to release Satan after the 1,000 years?

*Revelation 20:7-10, “When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*



***What questions or concerns do you have about God releasing Satan?***

As we read these verses, we wonder, “Why will God release Satan at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ?” First, we must admit that there are some biblical questions which we cannot answer this side of glory because God has chosen to reserve some mysteries to Himself (Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 11:33-36). Yet, as believers, even if we cannot always understand something about God’s Word, His will, or His ways, we

can be sure that He remains ever faithful, true, and trustworthy, and in light of that our job remains to obey what we do understand as quickly, fully, and well as we are able. Even if we might not be able to answer why God releases Satan, we can suggest some possible reasons and motivations, based on an understanding of the entirety of the Word of God.



At the beginning of the millennium, only believers will be alive (Revelation 19:17-21), some who live through the tribulation period, and some who come back with the Lord at His second coming. It will be a time of peace unparalleled in history (Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3). Jesus will be ruling on the throne of David, imposing a benevolent theocracy on all of His creation. Jesus will ensure that everyone has every need fulfilled, while not tolerating the sin so prevalent in today's society (Psalm 2:7-12; Revelation 2:26-29; 12:5; 19:11-16). We can only imagine such a time of "heaven on earth."

The believers who live through the tribulation will be mortal. They will live and repopulate the earth during the millennial kingdom. Without the devastation of sin taking its toll, we can imagine the population increase during the millennium will be enormous, almost incomprehensible. All those who are born during the millennium will enjoy the benefits and blessings of Christ's reign on the earth, but they will still be born with a sin nature, and they will still have to freely repent and believe the gospel, personally choosing Christ as Savior and Lord.



***God is not willing that any should perish but that all would come to the salvation He provided and offers (1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2). How does this truth change your perspective about why Satan is released?***

Yet, at the end of the millennial reign, Satan is loosed and is able to deceive a vast multitude to follow him in one final rebellion against the Lord of glory and His saints! It seems that the further humanity gets from the end of the tribulation and the start of the millennium, the more they will "take for granted" how good they have it, and some may even harbor doubts about the goodness of God. Even though the

number who rebel with Satan are said to be "like the sand on the shore" (Revelation 20:8), they may still be a minority compared to the number who do not rebel. It will still be a large number of souls who join Satan. Undoubtedly, one of the primary reasons God gives us this picture of what will happen in time is to demonstrate the deep-seated sin nature inherent in all of humanity (Jeremiah 17:9).



***John 10:10 tells us: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” What encourages you or challenges you in knowing Satan’s motives and God’s motives as it relates to Satan being released after the 1,000 years?***

God is trying to tell us something about His nature as displayed during the millennium. His grace and goodness will be on display continually. But at the end of the 1,000 years, He will have zero tolerance for rebellion. When it happens, He will show no mercy and offer no “second chances.” At that time He will

be quick to judge, and the final rebellion of Satan and sinful man will be over in a flash of fire. After this, the final judgment of the dead takes place (the great white throne judgment, Revelation 20:11-15). Eternity can thus begin with every aspect of sin gone for all time.



***How are you currently experiencing God’s grace and goodness in your life even while living in a sinful, broken world?***

Finally, God is trying to reinforce some very important lessons concerning Satan, especially for believers. First, that he has been and always will be the enemy of humanity. As God has fixed His love on us, Satan has for us a special hatred. Ever since Satan's fall (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28), he has been the adversary of believers, and he is aptly described as the ultimate deceiver of mankind (John 8:44; 1 John 2:22). All he can give or promise man is death and destruction (John 10:10a). Satan is also shown here to be a truly defeated foe, and

his ultimate doom is certain, along with the doom of all who follow him. God is trying to remind us that Satan is a created being who is powerless before Him. All this should encourage believers today to take God at His Word concerning our position in Christ with respect to the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7; James 4:6-8; 1 John 2:15-29; 1 John 4:1-3), especially as we remember this grand truth: "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4, KJV).



***Even though Satan is a defeated foe, he still tries to destroy. How does remembering that Satan is defeated by God change the way you view sin and the effects of sin in this life? Praise God that He has conquered sin and death and that one day we will get to see the complete fulfillment of that!***



## *Lesson 8:*

# What is the great white throne judgment?

*The great white throne judgment is described in Revelation 20:11-15 and is the final judgment prior to the lost being cast into the lake of fire. We know from Revelation 20:7-15 that this judgment will take place after the millennium and after Satan is thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are (Revelation 19:19-20; 20:7-10). The books that are opened (Revelation 20:12) contain records of everyone's deeds, whether they are good or evil, because God knows everything that has ever been said, done, or even thought, and He will reward or punish each one accordingly (Psalm 28:4; 62:12; Romans 2:6; Revelation 2:23; 18:6; 22:12).*



***How does the judgment of God impact you personally?***

Also at this time, another book is opened, called the “book of life” (Revelation 20:12). It is this book that determines whether a person will inherit eternal life with God or receive everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. Although Christians are held accountable for their actions, they are forgiven in Christ and their names were written in the “book of life from the creation of the

world” (Revelation 17:8). We also know from Scripture that it is at this judgment when the dead will be “judged according to what they had done” (Revelation 20:12) and that “anyone’s name” that is not “found written in the book of life” will be “thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).





***On what basis do believers have assurance that they can never be erased from the book of life (see John 6:39; 10:28-29; Ephesians 4:30; Titus 3:5)?***

The fact that there is going to be a final judgment for all people, both believers and unbelievers, is clearly confirmed in many passages of Scripture. Every person will one day stand before Christ and be judged for his or her deeds. While it is very clear that the great white throne judgment is the final judgment, Christians disagree on how it relates to the other judgments mentioned in the Bible, specifically, who will be judged at the great white throne judgment.

Some Christians believe that the Scriptures reveal three different judgments to come. The first is the judgment of the sheep and the goats or a judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31-36). This takes place after the tribulation period but prior to the millennium; its purpose is to determine who will enter the millennial kingdom. The second is a judgment of believers' works, often referred to as the "judgment seat [bema] of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10). At this judgment, Christians will receive degrees of reward for their works or service to God. The third is the great white throne judgment at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:11-15). This is the judgment of unbelievers in which they are judged

according to their works and sentenced to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

Other Christians believe that all three of these judgments speak of the same final judgment, not of three separate judgments. In other words, the great white throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15 will be the time that believers and unbelievers alike are judged. Those whose names are found in the book of life will be judged for their deeds in order to determine the rewards they will receive or lose. Those whose names are not in the book of life will be judged according to their deeds to determine the degree of punishment they will receive in the lake of fire. Those who hold this view believe that Matthew 25:31-46 is another description of what takes place at the great white throne judgment. They point to the fact that the result of this judgment is the same as what is seen after the great white throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15. The sheep (believers) enter into eternal life, while the goats (unbelievers) are cast into "eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:46).



***For what will unbelievers be judged (see Revelation 20:11-15)?***



***Look up Romans 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 6:10, Revelation 3:11, and 22:12. Based upon these verses, for what will a believer be judged?***



***If believers are forgiven and not condemned for their actions, what could be some of the purposes of the judgment seat of Christ (see verses from previous question and also Luke 19:11-27)?***



## ***How does the truth that believers will give an account to God for their deeds impact the way you live today?***

Whichever view one holds of the great white throne judgment, it is important to never lose sight of the facts concerning the coming judgment(s). First, Jesus Christ will be the judge, all unbelievers will be judged by Christ, and they will be punished according to the works they have done. The Bible is very clear that unbelievers are storing up wrath against themselves (Romans 2:5) and that God will “repay each person according to what they

have done” (Romans 2:6). Believers will also be judged by Christ, but since Christ’s righteousness has been imputed to us and our names are written in the book of life, we will be rewarded, not punished, according to our deeds. Romans 14:10-12 says that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and that each one of us will give an account to God.



***Deuteronomy 32:4 reads:  
He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.***

***Spend some time praising God for being the Righteous Judge. Praise Him for what that means for judging evil in general and also for judging your own actions, thoughts, and motives. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to live for Him and to make Him known to those around you. Praise God that having a righteous judge means believers do not fear condemnation as we stand before Him one day and give an account for all we have said, done, thought, desired, etc.***



# Lesson 9:

## What are the new heavens and the new earth?

*The new earth will be the eternal dwelling place of believers in Jesus Christ. The new earth and the new heavens are sometimes referred to as the “eternal state.” Scripture gives us a few details of the new heavens and new earth.*



***What about our current earth do you love and value? What about this earth do you long to be restored or remade?***

The current heavens and earth have long been subject to God’s curse because of mankind’s sin. All creation “has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth” (Romans 8:22) as it awaits the fulfillment of God’s plan and “the children of God to be revealed” (verse 19). Heaven and earth will pass away (Mark 13:31), and they will

be replaced by the new heavens and the new earth. At that time, the Lord, seated on His throne, says, “I am making everything new!” (Revelation 21:5). In the new creation, sin will be totally eradicated, and “there shall be no more curse” (Revelation 22:3, NKJV).



***Read Romans 8:20-22. In what ways does the earth reveal the effects of sin and a longing for God to fix it?***

The new heaven and new earth are also mentioned in Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22, and 2 Peter 3:13. Peter tells us that the new heaven and new earth will be “where righteousness dwells.” Isaiah says that “the former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” Things will be completely new, and the old order of things, with the accompanying sorrow and tragedy, will be gone.

The new earth will be free from sin, evil, sickness, suffering, and death. It will be similar to our current earth, but without the curse of sin. It will be earth as God originally intended it to be. It will be Eden restored.



***Read Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13, and Revelation 21:4. According to these verses, in what ways will God make all things new?***



A major feature of the new earth will be the New Jerusalem. John calls it “the Holy City . . . coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband” (Revelation 21:2). This glorious city, with its streets of gold and pearly gates, is situated on a new, glorious earth. The tree of life will be there (Revelation 22:2). This city represents the final

state of redeemed mankind, forever in fellowship with God: “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. . . His servants will serve him. They will see his face” (Revelation 21:3; 22:3–4).



***In what ways is having fellowship with God forever the most important part of eternity?***

In the new heavens and new earth, Scripture says, there are seven things notable for their absence—seven things that are “no more”:

- no more sea (Revelation 21:1)
- no more death (Revelation 21:4)

- no more mourning (Revelation 21:4)
- no more weeping (Revelation 21:4)
- no more pain (Revelation 21:4)
- no more curse (Revelation 22:3)
- no more night (Revelation 22:5)



***Which of the ‘no mores’ are most meaningful to you personally? Why?***



***How does remembering God’s promise to bring about these ‘no mores’ change your perspective on life and eternity?***

The creation of the new heavens and new earth brings the promise that God “will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4). This event comes after the tribulation, after the Lord’s second coming, after the millennial kingdom, after the final rebellion, after

the final judgment of Satan, and after the great white throne judgment. The brief description of the new heavens and new earth is the last glimpse into eternity that the Bible gives.



***While we can speculate on what the new heavens and new earth will be like, we know they will be incredible because we will have fellowship with God forever. Allow God to search and expose your heart. What aspect of eternity do you long for most? Do you long for heaven for the wonderful things that will be there? Or do you long for heaven because God Himself will be there in fellowship with us forevermore? How can you anticipate all God has promised while keeping Him the focus of it all?***



## *Lesson 10:*

# How are we to live our lives in light of Christ's return?

*We believe that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent, that is, His return could occur at any moment. We, with the apostle Paul, look for “blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). Knowing that the Lord could come back today, some are tempted to stop what they are doing and just “wait” for Him.*



***Imminence does not mean that Jesus will return soon but that He could return at any moment. What does it look like to live in anticipation of Jesus' imminent return?***

However, there is a big difference between knowing that Jesus could return today and knowing that He will return today. Jesus said no one knows about that day or hour (Matthew 24:36). The time of His coming is something God has not revealed to anyone, and

so, until He calls us to Himself, we should continue serving Him. In Jesus' parable of the ten talents, the departing king instructs his servants to “occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13 KJV).



***How does remembering that Jesus could return today change what you focus on, invest in, and do?***

The return of Christ is always presented in Scripture as a great motivation to action, not as a reason to cease from action. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul wraps up his teaching on the rapture by saying, “Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.” In 1 Thessalonians 5:6, Paul concludes a lesson on

Christ’s coming with these words: “So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.” To retreat and “hold the fort” was never Jesus’ intention for us. Instead, we work while we can. “Night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4).



***How do believers live differently than those “who are asleep”? What does it look like for believers to be alert and self-controlled?***



***What kind of works does God call us to do while we wait for Jesus' return? See the following passages as well as any passages you recall:***

***Micah 6:8:***

***Matthew 28:19-20:***

***Romans 6:1-6:***

***2 Corinthians 5:11-21:***

***1 Thessalonians 5:17:***

***Hebrews 10:25:***

***2 Peter 3:18:***

The apostles lived and served with the idea that Jesus could return within their lifetime; what if they had ceased from their labors and just “waited”? They would have been in disobedience to Christ’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18-20), and the gospel would not have been

spread. The apostles understood that Jesus’ imminent return meant they must busy themselves with God’s work. They lived life to the fullest, as if every day were their last. We, too, should view every day as a gift and use it to glorify God.





***What does your life communicate about your priorities and focus? What do you spend your time, money, and resources on? What dominates your thoughts? How can you focus on your present circumstances while keeping a spiritual and eternal perspective?***



***How is Christ's imminent return a motivator for the way you live?***

- Are there some things you have become slack in or have lost focus on as a result of losing sight of Christ's return?***
- Are there some things you would like to do or invest in but that you have put off?***

***Ask God to give you a fresh perspective on your life and priorities. His promise to make all things new, beginning with His return and ushering in His sovereign plan for the end of times, is a great hope that we have as believers. It should impact who we are, what we do, and how we live!***



# Wrap Up

Now that you have studied ten lessons on questions about the end times, take some time to reflect on what you've learned and how you will put what you've learned into practice.



***How has your understanding of the end times changed or expanded as a result of what you've learned through this study? What are 2-3 truths you learned about the end times that are most meaningful to you?***



***What will you change in your life as a result of this study?***



***Who in your life needs to be encouraged by growing in their understanding of the end times? What will you do as a result of your renewed understanding of the end times?***



## *Reference List*

Lesson 1: [www.gotquestions.org/end-of-days.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/end-of-days.html)

Lesson 2: [www.gotquestions.org/rapture-of-the-church.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/rapture-of-the-church.html)

Lesson 3: [www.gotquestions.org/tribulation.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/tribulation.html)

Lesson 4: [www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-antichrist.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-antichrist.html)

Lesson 5: [www.gotquestions.org/mark-beast.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/mark-beast.html)

Lesson 6: [www.gotquestions.org/millennium.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/millennium.html)

Lesson 7: [www.gotquestions.org/release-Satan.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/release-Satan.html)

Lesson 8: [www.gotquestions.org/great-white-throne-judgment.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/great-white-throne-judgment.html)

Lesson 9: [www.gotquestions.org/new-heavens-earth.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/new-heavens-earth.html)

Lesson 10: [www.gotquestions.org/live-lives-Christ-return.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/live-lives-Christ-return.html)

All Bible references are quoted from the NIV unless otherwise stated.