

## LESSON 4 // HOW WILL THE WORLD END?—PART 1

**Big Idea:** People tend to think that life in this world as we know it will continue forever, but the Bible teaches that life here will come to a sudden, cataclysmic end and something new will be established. We know from Scripture that a final “day of the Lord” is scheduled for this world. Although no one but God knows when this day will come, there will be signs that it’s near. And we can be sure that Jesus’ “Second Coming” will be a part of this when He returns in glory as the conquering King of kings!

**Matthew 24:3-14 (NIV)** *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.<sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.<sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.<sup>7</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.<sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,<sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.<sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,<sup>13</sup> but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*

### Start Talking:

What kind of preparations do you make when you’re expecting someone to come to your home? How might this relate to being prepared for Jesus’ Second Coming?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Matthew 24:37-39 and 2 Peter 3:10.** What do you learn from these verses about the Second Coming of Jesus and the end of this world? What difference should this make in your life?

**Read Matthew 24:36, 42 and Acts 1:7.** Why is it not productive for us to speculate about the day of Jesus’ coming? What should we do instead as that day approaches?

**Read Matthew 24:3-14 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5.** What “signs” do these passages tell us to expect as part of the end times that lead to Jesus’ coming? Why is it valuable to know about these?

**Read Revelation 19:11-16.** How do these verses strengthen your faith in Jesus and encourage you to live for Him?

### Start Praying:

Ask God to help you “stand firm” (Matthew 24:13) for Jesus in the midst of a ungodly culture as you look forward to His Second Coming!

### Start Doing:

Spend time this week meditating on Matthew 24:1-44. Let Jesus’ teaching in this passage inspire and move you to live with greater passion and impact for His kingdom in light of the promise of His coming.