

## LESSON 5 // HOW WILL THE WORLD END?—PART 2

**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 when Jesus returns.

At the Second Coming of Jesus, the dead in Christ will rise and believers who are alive will “meet the Lord in the air.” When this happens, the final judgment of all people of all ages—the living and the dead—will take place and a new heaven and earth will be created. The important part of this for each of us now is that we must be ready every day for that day.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)** *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. <sup>17</sup> 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. Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

### Start Talking:

What kind of emotions do you have when you think about the reality of passing from this life to the next? How does your faith in Christ impact these emotions?

### Start Thinking:

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.** The Apostle Paul says to “encourage one another with these words.” How would you encourage a believer about God’s future for them based on these verses?

**Read John 5:24, 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Revelation 20:11-15.** How does Jesus’ promise that whoever believes in Him “will not be judged but has passed over from death to life” (John 5:24) help you understand 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Revelation 20:11-15?

**Read 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1-7.** What will the “new heaven and new earth” be like for God’s people? How does this comfort and inspire you as a believer?

**Read Matthew 24:42-44.** Why is it so important to be ready every day for the “final day” that’s coming? How can you “keep watch” (verse 42) daily and what difference should this make in your life?

### Start Praying:

Pray for a sense of urgency about living for the Lord every day—ready for that final day and encouraging others to be ready as well through faith in Jesus.

### Start Doing:

Write out your thoughts on what it means for you to “keep watch” as Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew 24:42. Take a practical step to incorporate what you discover into your daily walk with the Lord.