

GETTING READY FOR
THE END
OF THE WORLD

Part 2: Indicators
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Summary From Last Week

Common approaches to eschatology that we will not use:

Fear, Superiority, Denial, Abdication, Isolation

A healthy approach that we will embrace and use:

Loving urgency

Key Thought

Indicators are not panic buttons or alarm bells. They are signals that wise people discern to chart a responsible course of action.

Indicators According to Jesus: the Bad News

Deception

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many." – Matthew 24:4-5

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. – Matthew 24:23-28

Disaster

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. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. – Matthew 24:6-7

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Death

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. – Matthew 24:9

Denial

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. – Matthew 24:10-13

Indicators According to Jesus: The Good News!

Distribution

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. – Matthew 24:14

Deliverance

"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. – Matthew 24:30-31

Next Steps

Actually read the book of Revelation. It can be a confusing book, but look for what Revelation reveals about Jesus. What is his heart? What is his character? What does he want his bride (The Church) to be like?

Small Group Questions



- 1) There are plenty of bad indicators that our world is broken. Have you seen any good indicators in your life that give you hope for the future?
- 2) What kinds of indicators do you consult to chart the course of your life? (Economic, media, culture, scripture, etc.)
- 3) What is your normal response to a natural disaster? Do you respond in a way that would be in line with the response of Jesus? Where do you draw the line with compassion, mercy and getting involved?
- 4) What "responsible course of action" are you taking because all of the indicators listed above are happening in our world right now?
- 5) How does the promised return of Jesus affect your life today?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?