

The End is Nigh

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For Discussion: Secular Fear Meets Bible Prophecy: One Third Believe The End Is Near

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What do people think about the end of the world?

Most don't expect it to happen any time soon. But, a growing number of people sense that history may be approaching a dramatic turning point.

- According to a recent study conducted by researchers at the University of British Columbia, nearly one-third of Americans and Canadians believe the world will end within their lifetime.

How do people think the world will end?

When secular culture talks about the future, it usually frames the end as pure catastrophe: climate collapse, nuclear devastation, or technological disaster.

- These narratives offer fear but little hope.
- The Bible, however, tells a different story.

What does the Bible tell us about the end?

Scripture teaches that history is not random. The Bible describes a clear beginning, a purposeful unfolding of events, and ultimately a conclusion in which God intervenes decisively in human history.

- Jesus warned that before the end comes, the world would experience rising turmoil--wars, instability, moral confusion, and distress among nations.
- Whether people believe in the Bible or not, it is difficult to ignore how often modern headlines echo those warnings.

Are older or younger people more likely to believe the world as we know it is about to end?

The new survey found that 28.9% of respondents believe the world will end during their lifetime.

- Younger participants were even more likely to hold that view.
- While belief in the end of the world tends to decline as people age in most groups, it does not decline among Evangelical Protestants. In fact, in some cases it increases.

Why do more Evangelical Protestants believe the world as we know it will end in their lifetimes?

That difference is not rooted in conspiracy theories or cultural pessimism. It is rooted in something far simpler: Evangelical Christians tend to read and study biblical prophecy more frequently than many other groups.

- For them, the expectation that history is moving toward a divinely appointed conclusion is not speculation. It is part of their theological framework.

Why do more younger people believe the world as we know it is about to end among secular groups?

This may be best explained by the frog in the water analogy...

- Older people may have gotten dulled by the steady changes happening over their lifetime (the frog in the water heating up).
- Younger people see how bad things are and rapidly getting worse (like the frog dropped in the water that is already hot)

How does the way people think about the end of the world shape how they respond to it?

Participants who believed humans would cause the apocalypse were far more likely to support drastic measures to stop it--including extreme government interventions such as devoting massive portions of national wealth to a single crisis, instituting martial law, or even overthrowing existing political systems.

- In contrast, those who believed the end would come through divine or supernatural forces were far less likely to support such radical responses.

How do you respond to someone who thinks Christians will cause the end of the world to fulfill prophecy?

They are confusing Bible believers with Islamists who do believe that. Bible-believing Christians are looking forward to a supernatural event, the rapture of the Church. There is nothing we can do to make that happen other than to help make it happen sooner through evangelistic efforts.

2 Peter 3:12 – looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God

The more we can work with God to help others to know Him, the sooner the church will be completed and Jesus will return for us.

Why is there a different response to the end of the world between Christians and secularists?

Bible prophecy does not say that humanity will destroy the world by technology or environmental collapse.

- Instead, Scripture describes a future in which human rebellion, geopolitical conflict, and spiritual deception intensify until God ultimately intervenes.
- That message does not produce panic--it produces vigilance.

With the increasing belief that the world as we know it is about to end, why don't churches teach prophecy?

For decades, most pastors and Christian leaders have avoided teaching about prophecy altogether, fearing that it can be controversial or easily misunderstood.

2 Peter 3:3-4 – *scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*

Yet the growing cultural fascination with apocalyptic ideas suggests that people are already thinking about the end of the world--just often without a biblical lens.

- Today's church is missing a great opportunity... this is a symptom of the Laodicean phase of the Church Age.

Why is the biblical perspective on the end of the world as we know it far superior to the secular view?

Scripture indeed warns of difficult times ahead... It speaks of tribulation, global turmoil, and spiritual conflict.

- But it also promises something the world's apocalyptic scenarios never do: redemption.
- The biblical story does not end with destruction. It ends with restoration, the return of Christ, and the renewal of creation.
- Christians view the end of the world differently than secularists. It is not merely the collapse of civilization; it is the culmination of God's plan for history.

Why is there a rising belief that the world may be nearing its end?

This could easily be dismissed as anxiety or cultural pessimism. But it may also reveal something deeper about the human condition. Even in a secular age, many people instinctively feel that history is moving somewhere-- that the story of the world has an ending.

What is causing so many people to get a sense that the end is nigh?

Because it is! The trends are unmistakable...

What trends are fueling the belief that the end is coming soon?

- Israel: back in the land, restoration of Hebrew language, mighty military, worldwide antisemitism
- Politics: the relentless trend toward more socialism and globalism (secularists have a sense that globalism has to be bad but they don't know why)
- Economy: (1) dependence on fewer sources (monopolies are bad news), (2) continually on the edge of an economic crash, (3) AI eliminating jobs, (4) Growing inflation, (5) plan for CBDC
- Wars: it is easier than ever to get them started, but hard to stop them
- Technology: trending toward more loss of privacy and more infrastructure for control of people
- Environment: the narrative is that human activity is causing climate change thus justifying radical measures
- Extraterrestrials: we are not alone; there will be contact and there is no guarantee they'll be friendly (they are actually demons masquerading as aliens)

How should Christians respond to the realization that so many people believe the end is nigh?

For the church, that awareness presents an opportunity...

- If nearly a third of people already believe the world may end in their lifetime, then the conversation about the future is already happening.

The question is whether Christians will step into that conversation. The church should be ready with an answer-- not one of fear, but one rooted in the promises of Scripture.

- The Bible does not call believers to panic about the future. It calls them to watch, to remain faithful, and to remember that the final chapter of history ultimately belongs to God.

What applications do we see from our discussion today?

- The church should capitalize on the growing sense that human history is heading toward a culmination.
- It is interesting that it is younger secularists that may be more open to the biblical account of TEOTWAWKI (The End Of The World As We Know It) ... thus an opportunity for the church.