

The End Times (Part 1)—The Story Isn't Over

Introduction: The Unfinished Story

Think about your favourite TV series or series of novels. Imagine getting to the end of a book or series, right in the middle of the story, and realizing there is no more. The show has been cancelled, the author has just stopped writing. There are loose threads, cliffhangers, and unresolved stories. Imagine how frustrating that would feel.

Life often feels the same way—like an unfinished story full of pain, questions, and mystery. But our story isn't cancelled. God, the Author, is still writing. The Bible shows us how the story will end—not with fear, but with hope. The same God who created the world will one day finish His story through Jesus Christ.

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

1. God's Story Has a Purposeful End

Many people today believe that life has no real purpose—just a series of random events. The Bible says something different. History is not an accident. *God has a plan and is moving everything toward His goal.*

“I am God... declaring the end from the beginning... My purpose will stand.” (Isaiah 46:9–10)

Even when the world looks chaotic, God is not improvising—He is accomplishing His purpose. What looks confusing to us makes sense to Him, because He sees the whole story. It's like reading only one paragraph of a novel: *you don't understand what's happening until you see the full picture.*

This is what theologians call “the already and the not yet.” Jesus’ kingdom has already begun through His death and resurrection, and the victory is won, but we don’t yet see the very end of the story. One day, God will finish what He started—in creation, in history, and in us.

2. God’s Plan Ends in Renewal, Not Ruin

Some people think “the end of the world” means everything will burn and disappear. But the Bible says God’s plan ends with renewal, not destruction. He will make all things new—heaven and earth joined together forever.

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.” (Isaiah 65:17)

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (Revelation 21:4)

The Garden of Eden will grow into the City of God. It’s not about escape from the world, but the transformation of it. Because of that, everything we do that reflects God’s goodness—every prayer, every kind word, every act of love—matters forever.

As Paul writes, *“Your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58) Christians can face pain honestly but still have hope, because Jesus will say the final word: *“Behold, I am making all things new.”*

3. God's People Live in Hopeful Expectation

We live between *"It is finished"* (the cross) and *"I am making all things new"* (Christ's return). This means we live in hopeful expectation—trusting that God will complete His story.

"We hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
(Romans 8:25)

The early Christians faced persecution, but they didn't lose hope. They believed Jesus would return—not as a servant, but as a King—to judge evil, renew creation, and live forever with His people. This hope doesn't make us passive. It calls us to live holy, faithful lives now, as Peter said: *"What sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?"* (2 Peter 3:11)

Our hope is not abstract—it's personal. When we face death, fear, or confusion, hope reminds us that the story isn't over yet. So we live with faith, with joy, and with the prayer of Revelation 22:20: *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."*

Conclusion

In scripture, eschatology (the study of the end times) isn't so much about predicting dates or reading secret codes as it is about trusting the Author. That doesn't mean that Christians don't (or shouldn't) try to understand what must happen before Christ returns, and we'll think more about the various ways Christians do that next week. But when it comes to the end times, the most important truth to understand is this: The same God who began the story will finish it beautifully.

So let us live with hope, live with purpose, and live with the confidence that our story is in the hands of the greatest Author of all time.

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” (Revelation 22:20)

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of a time in your life that felt like an unfinished story?
2. How does it help to think of God as an Author who hasn't finished writing?
3. Why do people long for stories to have endings that make sense?
4. Why do many people today think life has no direction or purpose?
5. How can remembering God's purpose help us trust Him in difficult times?
6. How is God's view of “the end” different from the world's view?
7. Why does knowing that God will renew creation change how we live now?
8. What does it mean to live “in between” the first and second coming of Jesus?
9. How can our hope for the future change the way we live now?
10. What are some ways you can show others that your hope is in Christ?