

HOW WILL THE WORLD END?

Dear Friend:

Almost from the creation of the world mankind has wondered: "When will the world end?". There is no shortage of speculation, with guesses from another worldwide flood (we know that's not going to happen) to World War III that will obliterate the planet. One thing is certain: the world will end. Somewhere in the next few billion years our sun will be lights out from burn out.

The Bible makes it clear: the world will end in a certain order of events at a time that God only knows (see Matthew 24:26). Those of you who read In Touch know that there are multiple places in the Bible that talk about the end of the world but no book of the Bible is more complete and filled with details as Revelation.

In a sense, the end of the world took a big step closer with the first coming of Jesus Christ. With his death and resurrection, He ushered in what is known as "The time of the Gentiles": Salvation has always been available for all people but following the Great Commission the Good News began the great inpouring of Gentiles (non-Jews) into the kingdom of God. After Pentecost the gospel spread to the entire known world. Near the end of the world Revelation indicates there will be an increase of Jews turning to Christ as their Messiah/Savior.

From my understanding of Revelation and beliefs, the order of events for the end of the world will be like this....The death and resurrection of Jesus (done), The Church Age/inpouring of Gentiles (now happening), the increase of the persecution of Christians (started in the first century), the coming of Anti-Christ and his assistant the great prophet (future), the start of the Great Tribulation (the second half of the 7 year Tribulation), the rapture of Christians, the set-up of the battle of Armageddon, Satan- and Anti-Christ get crushed (really no battle), Christ's second coming, the Judgement, the new heaven and the new earth. What about the Millenium? Some Christians believe it is going on now (it's the spiritual reign of Christ through the church right now), the more popular belief in America is that the Millenium follows the Battle of Armageddon. Take awhile to digest all of this. Don't lose sleep trying to figure all of this out, but it is good to know the order of events. When Christ comes back, it will all pan-out (Panmillennial).

In Christ Love,
Pastor Mike

Prayer: Thanks for all who have continued to pray for Chris and me, earthquake victims in Morocco, Melvin Burdette (shut-in of the month)

Events: Thursday, September 21st 6:00pm - Women's Ministry; Friday, September 22nd 6:45am - Men's Breakfast at Tim Horton's; Sunday September 24th State of the Church-Congregational meeting after church, Friday September 29th Hayride, "Fall-Festival" combined with the Preschool. Helpers needed!