



THE END TIMES:

BIBLICAL ANSWERS FROM BILLY GRAHAM

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Always Good News.



With so much chaos and confusion in the world today—from the COVID-19 pandemic to widespread civil unrest—many wonder if we are living in the end times.

Maybe you've heard predictions of when the world will end. Or perhaps you're too afraid to even think about it. It's true that the world is straying from God, and the Bible points to several warnings we can see all around us. But, in John 16:33, Jesus Christ says, "*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world*" (ESV).

By understanding what God's Word says about the end of the world as we know it, there can be peace in our hearts. These five answers from Billy Graham explain more about what God's Word says about the end times—and why we are to be watchful and prayerful rather than anxious and fearful:

QUESTION: How bad is the world going to have to get before God finally steps in and Jesus comes back? Are we living in the last times?

ANSWER: The Bible warns us against making precise predictions about the exact time of Jesus' return—but His return is certain, and we may well be living in the last days before He comes again. The Bible says, "*The night is nearly over; the day is almost here*" (Romans 13:12).

Shortly before returning to Heaven, Jesus told His disciples that someday He would come back to establish His kingdom. But before that could take place, He said, certain things would have to happen—and we see many of these today. For example, He said that before His return the Gospel must be preached throughout the world (see Mark 13:10). Never before has this been possible—but now it is through radio and the internet and other modern means of mass communication.

Our world is no stranger to evil; Satan has always been working to stop God's plans. But God's enemies now have access to modern weapons of mass destruction, and no one can predict what the outcome will be. Jesus said, "*You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ... Nation will rise against nation*" (Matthew 24:6–7, NKJV).

QUESTION: How will the world end? Does the Bible say anything about this?

ANSWER: I want to assure you that the world's future is firmly in God's hands, and the world as we know it will only pass away when God intervenes to bring it to an end.

Does that mean we'll never experience wars, plagues, or natural disasters that look like they might bring life to an end (just as they have in the past)? It's certainly possible; God hasn't promised to deliver us from such tragedies. But they aren't the end, and even in the midst of these we can trust God's promise to be with us. Jesus said, "*Such things must happen, but the end is still to come*" (Matthew 24:6).

What will the end be like? For one thing, it will be sudden and unexpected—and most people will be unprepared. Just as in the days of Noah's flood, a catastrophe will suddenly overtake the earth—and then it will be too late to turn to God. The Bible also hints at total, fiery destruction. "*The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything ... in it will be laid bare*" (2 Peter 3:10).

The good news is, we need not need fear that day if we know Christ. "*Since everything will be destroyed ... live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God*" (2 Peter 3:11–12).

QUESTION: Why do some people get all wrapped up in trying to predict the end of the world? We've always experienced wars and natural disasters, and we always will.

ANSWER: You're right—up to a point. Throughout history some people have claimed to know exactly when the world was going to come to an end—and they were clearly wrong. Jesus said, "*About that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father*" (Matthew 24:36).

But there is one prophecy about the future that I urge you not to ignore or dismiss as nonsense—and that is the one spoken by Jesus. Jesus warned that someday this world as we know it will come to an end—not because of a war or natural disaster, but because God will intervene and bring it to an end. The future is in God's hands, and He alone will bring an end to the world.

And when He does, all the evils of this world will be destroyed and Jesus Christ will come again to rule over a new world in perfect peace and justice. We can barely imagine this, but it gives us hope for a better world. As the Bible says, “*In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells*” (2 Peter 3:13).

Don’t worry about those who falsely claim to know when the world will come to an end. Instead, put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. He alone gives us hope for the future and strength for our lives right now.

QUESTION: If we are living in the last days and the world is going to come to an end before long, then why should we bother having children or saving money for our retirement? Why bother preparing for the future if there isn’t going to be any future?

ANSWER: If we knew for certain exactly when Christ was going to come again, and when this present world would come to an end—then yes, what you say might make sense.

But we don’t know—and that is the way God intended it to be. When Jesus’ disciples asked Him when He would return to establish His kingdom, He answered by warning them not to be fooled by anyone who claimed to know the answer. Then He said, “*About that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father*” (Mark 13:32).

Why is this? One reason, I believe, is because if we did know, we might be tempted to stop doing the work God wants us to do. In one of His parables, Jesus commended the servant who kept on working while his master was away. Then He added, “*It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns*” (Luke 12:43). May that be true of us.

At the same time, Christ’s promise is clear: Someday He will come again in glory and power, and all the evil and rebellion and injustice of this present world will come to an end. That day is closer now than it has ever been before. Are you ready for that day? Make sure of your commitment to Christ—and make sure as well that if He does come during your lifetime, He will find you working and living for Him.

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

1. RECOGNIZE GOD’S PLAN—PEACE AND LIFE

God loves you and wants you to experience His peace and life. The BIBLE says, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16, NKJV

2. REALIZE OUR PROBLEM—SEPARATION FROM GOD

People choose to disobey God and go their own way. This results in separation from God. The BIBLE says: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23, NKJV

3. RESPOND TO GOD’S REMEDY—THE CROSS OF CHRIST

God sent His Son to bridge the gap. Christ did this by paying the penalty of our sins when He died on the cross and rose from the grave. The BIBLE says, *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8, ESV

4. RECEIVE GOD’S SON—LORD AND SAVIOR

You cross the bridge into God’s family when you ask Christ to come into your life. The BIBLE says, *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* John 1:12, ESV

5. THE INVITATION IS TO

REPENT (turn from your sins), ASK for God’s forgiveness, and by faith RECEIVE Jesus Christ into your heart and life and follow Him in obedience as your Lord and Savior.

When you make this commitment, you become a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and a part of His family (John 1:12).

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and that You raised Him to life. I want Him to come into my heart and to take control of my life. I want to trust Jesus as my Savior and follow Him as my Lord from this day forward. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”

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