

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

The Least of These

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Introduction

Considering current world circumstances, many Christians believe that the end times are near, or that we are living in them already. Matthew records Jesus saying that, “The Son and the angels do not know when it will be. Only the Father knows” (Matthew 24:36). Jesus then continues to teach that the end times will come like a thief, when we do not expect it. Peter uses the same tone and language in his second letter to alert readers to the coming return of the Lord. Peter reminds us what kind of people we ought to be and how we should live our lives as believers of God and followers of Jesus.

Read

2 Peter 3

Discuss

1. What are your initial emotions when you hear “the day of the Lord”? According to 2 Peter 3, what would that day look like?
2. Read 2 Peter 3:11. How should we live life as suggested by Peter while waiting for the day of the Lord? Is there an aspect or domain in your life right now that makes it difficult to live this way? How can you overcome it?
3. Read 2 Peter 3:12a. Jossy mentions that as believers, we need to be joyfully expectant of the day of the Lord. Why do some believers fear the day of the Lord’s coming?
4. Read Matthew 24:14. When will the end time come according to Jesus? Does that mean we can hasten towards the end time? How?

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5. We can hasten to the end time by praying to God, giving of ourselves and towards the Kingdom work of preaching the Gospel, and going where we feel led by the Spirit. What practical step can you do to incorporate any of these into your life? If you have been doing them diligently, how can they be improved?

Respond

We learn that God will not announce the exact day of His coming. Jesus teaches us that neither the Son nor the angels know about it. It is necessary for us as believers to be prepared, to live a life that is holy and godly, and to tell and show the people around us the Good News of the Kingdom. Is there someone within your reach (whether it is literally or figuratively) that you can start reading the Bible with? Pray for them and aim to reach out to them this week.

Next step and suggestion: If they are interested in reading the Bible with you, you could start by reading Mark together.