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## *A Year in the Word*

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### **A Year in the Word: Revelation: Part 3**

#### **Small Group Questions: The End is Near (or is it)?**

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#### **Read**

Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; 1 Corinthians 2:7–8; Revelation 11:1–10 and 20:4 and 21:1–4; John 14:1–3; Matthew 24:36; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Luke 12:40 and 21:28 and Colossians 3:1–4

#### **Reflect**

They say hindsight is 20/20. Biblical prophecy is often like that, too. In the Old Testament, there were 300 prophecies about the Messiah coming, but everybody missed it. God's plan is restoration, but the Bible says no one will know when Jesus will come again. Why do you think God maintains such mystery?

Pastor Greg highlights what we know (and think we know) about the end times:

1. We know that there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
  - a. What do we know about this new heaven?
2. We know that Jesus is coming again.
  - a. Do you believe Jesus will return? Why or why not?
3. We know that Jesus will reign a long time. Separate from his eternal reign, which (if any) of the following views regarding the millennium (1,000 years) do you believe will happen, and why?
  - a. **Pre-Millennial view:** Belief that Jesus will return before a literal 1000-year reign. Then Satan will be released for one final battle.
  - b. **A Millennial view:** Belief that we are currently living in the millennial age (church age)—that the 1000 years are symbolic and began when Jesus established the church, and will end when Jesus comes again to establish his eternal kingdom.
  - c. **Post-Millennial view:** Belief that most of Revelation was fulfilled in AD 70. After 1000 years, through the Church, the world will become better and better.
4. We know that there will be a time of trouble before he comes.
  - a. Which of the following do you agree with, and why? (idealist, historicist, futurist, preterist [already happened])
5. We think that we know there will be a rapture of the church.
  - a. Which view of the rapture happening, if any, do you agree with? (Pre-trib/Mid-trib/Post-trib)

How should you respond?

1. Make sure I'm ready. Do you think we are in the end times? Explain. What can you do today to make sure you're prepared? How does it change (or not change) how you are living right now?
2. Start living my life for a higher purpose. Do you believe you have a higher purpose? What have you discovered about it so far?
3. Keep my head up because I know the end of the story. How can worrying or focusing on the end times and a specific view of how it's going to be, distract you from what's most important? What *is* most important?

**Respond:** Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?