

# Orientation to the End of the World

## Revelation 6

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:11

Jesus **Reigns** over All Things (Rev. 1:1; 5:9,13)

### What to Expect when the World is Ending:

1. **Increasing** “Birth Pains” (Matt. 24:8)
  - Deception (Matt. 24:4-5,11; Rev. 6:1-2; 2 Thes. 2:3-4)
  - **Devastation** (Matt. 24:6-8; Rev. 6:3-8)
  - Persecution (Matt. 24:9-10; Rev. 6:9-11; John 16:33)
  - **Proclamation** (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 6:9; Rom. 11:25)
2. (The Secret **“Rapture”** of the church - 1 Thes. 4:16-17)
  - Pre-Tribulational - before the Great Tribulation
  - Mid-Tribulational - before the wrath of God is poured out
  - Post-Tribulational - after the Great Tribulation
3. The Great **Tribulation** (Matt. 24:21)
  - A Conquering **Leader** (Dan. 9:26-27; 2 Thes. 2:3-4)
  - 3.5 years of “peace” (Dan. 9:27)
  - 3.5 years of war and wrath (Matt. 24:15)
  - Believers overcome by blood & testimony
4. The **Return** of Christ (2 Thes. 2:9; Rev. 19:15)
5. The **Millennium** (Rev. 20:2)
  - Post-Millennialism - Jesus returns after a long symbolic age in which the church eventually triumphs and ushers in the kingdom
  - A-Millennialism - Jesus returns after a long symbolic age of struggle in which the church battles the forces of evil
  - Pre-Millennialism - Jesus returns in order to reign on this earth in Jerusalem for a literal 1,000 years
    - i. Fulfills remaining promises to Israel (e.g. Is. 11:6-11)
    - ii. Proves God’s **Justice** to condemn sinners (Rev. 20:7-10)

6. The **Final** Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)
7. The **Eternal** Kingdom (Rev. 21-22)

### **Opening Questions**

1. When it comes to a finale of a show, do you like when shows have cliffhangers? Why or why not?
2. Describe a time where you saw a great finale. Whether it be a tv show, a play that you went to or a movie series. Why was it so good?

**Pray:** Pray for protection over everyone, and pray for guidance for the conversation.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What was the significance of Darin's opening illustration of the tightrope walker's manager clinging to his back while walking across Niagara Falls? In what way is this encouraging as we approach the end of the age?
2. Why is it important to know that Jesus reigns over all things? What is a personal situation in your life right now that makes you thankful that Jesus reigns over it?
3. In what ways are we seeing the "increasing birth pains" in our world today?
4. Instead of getting justice now, God calls us to wait and rest in him. Why is it hard to do so? Is there a current situation in which you are learning to wait and trust God's timing for justice?
5. Have you given much thought or study to end times beliefs? Do you have an eschatological view you lean more towards than another? How much of this view is influenced by what you heard growing up?
6. What is something new you learned about end times events from Pastor Darin's message on Sunday? What questions do you still have?
7. Why do you think it's necessary for all of this stuff to happen before Christ's return?

### **Application Questions**

8. How does knowing we may be living in the end times affect how you live your life?
9. How do the struggles of your everyday life draw you closer to Jesus?
10. What is stopping you from going and sharing the Gospel?

## **Prayer**

**Personal:** Pray for faith and joy to see persecutions and natural disasters as signs of Christ's victorious return.

**Ministry:** Pray for renewed commitment to intercede for our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world.