

end of the world?

- part 1

Sunday Feb 4

7:45pm - 9:30

Town House SK3 9DU



end of the world?

questions?

why are 'end times' important?

- fundamental **theme** of scripture
- **confidence** to respond to speculation about blood moons, 'apocalyptic election results', etc . . .
- helps us **pastorally**

structure

- set the scene
- OT Kingdom and hope
- Gospels and Acts
- Paul
- Revelation
- Pastoral implications
- summary

Items Christians refer to

- **personal return** of Jesus Acts 1:11
- at His return the dead will be **raised**
1 Thess 4:16-17 in the air, '**rapture**'
- towards the End there will be times of great stress and difficulty **tribulation** Matthew 24:21-22
- **Millennium** – a 1000 year reign of Christ with his saints Revelation 20:1-6
- **Judgement** of the living and the dead 2Tim 4:1
- **New Heavens** and New Earth Revelation 21:1-2

Biblical themes / assumptions

- God is the rightful ruler of the world
- Humanity doesn't recognise His rule and resists it
- God's authority will not, in the end, be frustrated

OT Kingdom and hope

- God as King in creation
- Psalm 24 The earth is the Lord's ...
- Psalm 47

OT Kingdom and hope

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

2 For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. . . .

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

OT Kingdom and hope

- God as King in Israel
- Ex 20 You shall have no other gods before me.
- Moses, Joshua, Judges

OT Kingdom and hope

1 Sam 8

And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

OT Kingdom and hope

- Transformation of hope
- Fragile human kingship
Israel 722BC, Judah 586BC
- Prophetic promise
Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel

OT Kingdom and hope

Joel 2

“And it shall come to pass afterwards,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
29 Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

OT Kingdom and hope

- Prophetic expectation –
end time anticipation

Messiah / Christ
Resurrection, judgement,
Temple restoration, Spirit

this present age

New Creation

the age to come

Gospels and Acts

Mark 1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

Gospels and Acts

- Kingdom of God

- Luke 11

20 But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

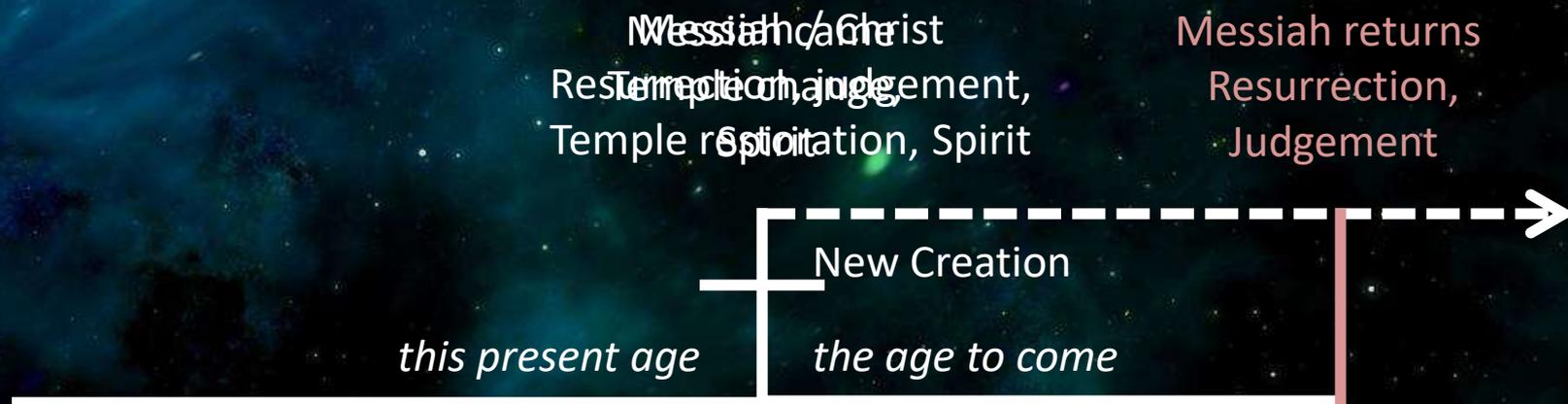
- Lord's prayer, your Kingdom come

Gospels and Acts

- If Jesus fulfils the OT, why do NT writers reflect anticipation?
Extra hope!

Gospels and Acts

- If Jesus fulfils the OT, why do NT writers reflect anticipation?
Extra hope!



Matt 24 / Mark 13

Subject	Matthew 24-25	Mark 13
Prediction of destruction of the temple	1-3	1-4
Wars and rumours of wars	4-8	5-8
Opposition and preaching the gospel	9-14	9-13
The 'abomination of desolation'	15-22	14-20
Ignore false Christs	23-28	21-23
Sun darkened, gathering the elect	29-31	24-27
Lesson of the fig tree	32-33	28-29
This generation will not pass away...	34-35	30-31
The hour unknown	36	32-37
One taken and one left	37-42	
Thief and householder	43-44	
Faithful and wise servants	45-51	
Parable of ten virgins	25.1-13	
Parable of the 'talents'	14-30	(34-35)
Parable of sheep and goats	31-46	

Gospels and Acts

Acts 2

For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

FULFILMENT

At no point does any NT writer suggest that Jesus does anything other than **fulfil all God's promises** from the OT.

We might not see their complete fulfilment until His return – but it is **His life, death and resurrection**, and not some other historical events, which meet all our hopes.

Paul

- Age to come inaugurated by Jesus' resurrection
- 1 Cor 2
6 Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

Paul

Col 1

He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

Paul

1 Thess 4

14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor 15

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Paul – past, present, future

You have been saved Eph 2:8

those who are being saved 2 Cor 2:15

work out with fear and trembling Phil 2:12

nearer now than when you first believed
Rom 13:11

“now, and not yet” eschatology

Paul – anticipation 1&2 Thess

Suddenly

1 Thess 5:2 the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night

2 Thess 2:2 not to be .. alarmed that the day of the Lord has come.

Revelation (apocalupsis) of Jesus 2 Th 1:7

His **appearing** (epiphaneia) 2 Th 2:8

His **royal presence** (parousia) 1 Th 4:15, 2 Th 2:8

Revelation

- Huge topic
- Rev 1:9 I, John, your brother and partner in the **tribulation** and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus,
- ‘time, times, and half a time’ Daniel 7:25
- Jesus’ coming as presence in judgement / encouragement , eg, letters

Revelation

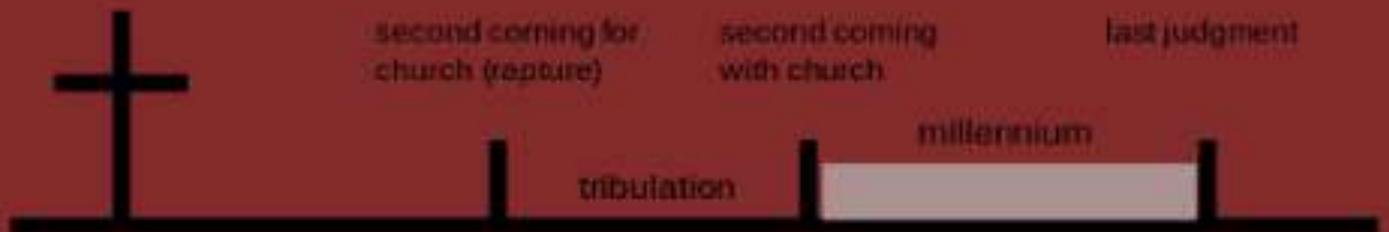
- End will come at the end of the series:
- 7 seals Rev 8:1
- 7 trumpets Rev 15:1
- 7 bowls Rev 16:17
- And end has already come in death and resurrection of Jesus 12:10

Revelation

- **Millennium** - exactly 1000 years?
- Seven visions, 'and I saw ...'
19:11, 17, 19 20:1, 4, 11 21:1
- Seven ways of seeing the victory



1. Post-tribulational Premillennialism



2. Pre-tribulational (dispensational) Premillennialism



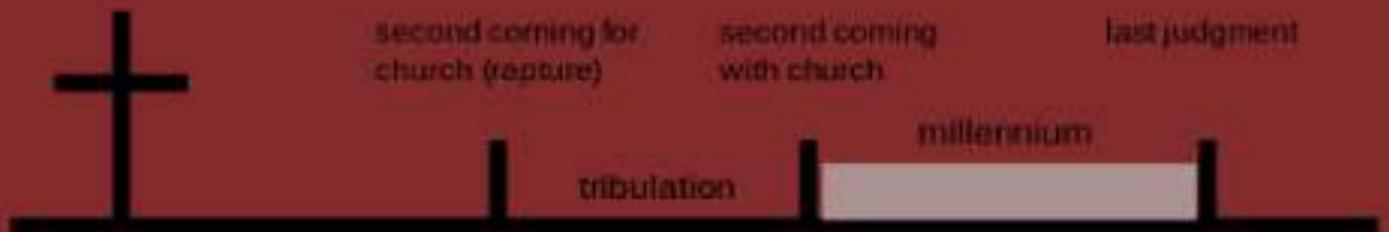
3. Postmillennialism



video clip



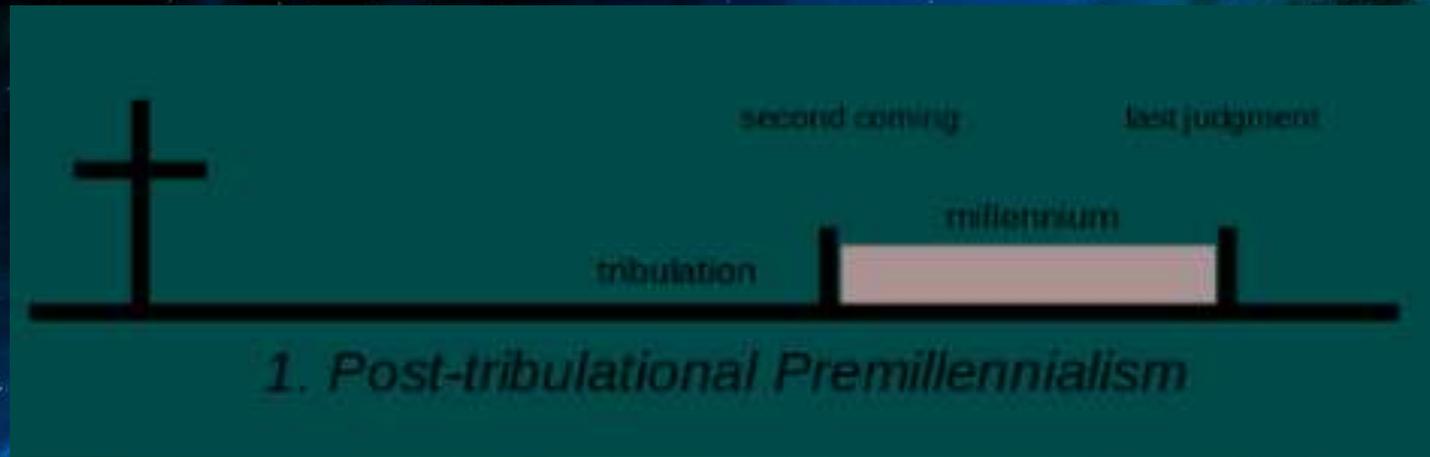
1. Post-tribulational Premillennialism



2. Pre-tribulational (dispensational) Premillennialism



3. Postmillennialism



Revelation

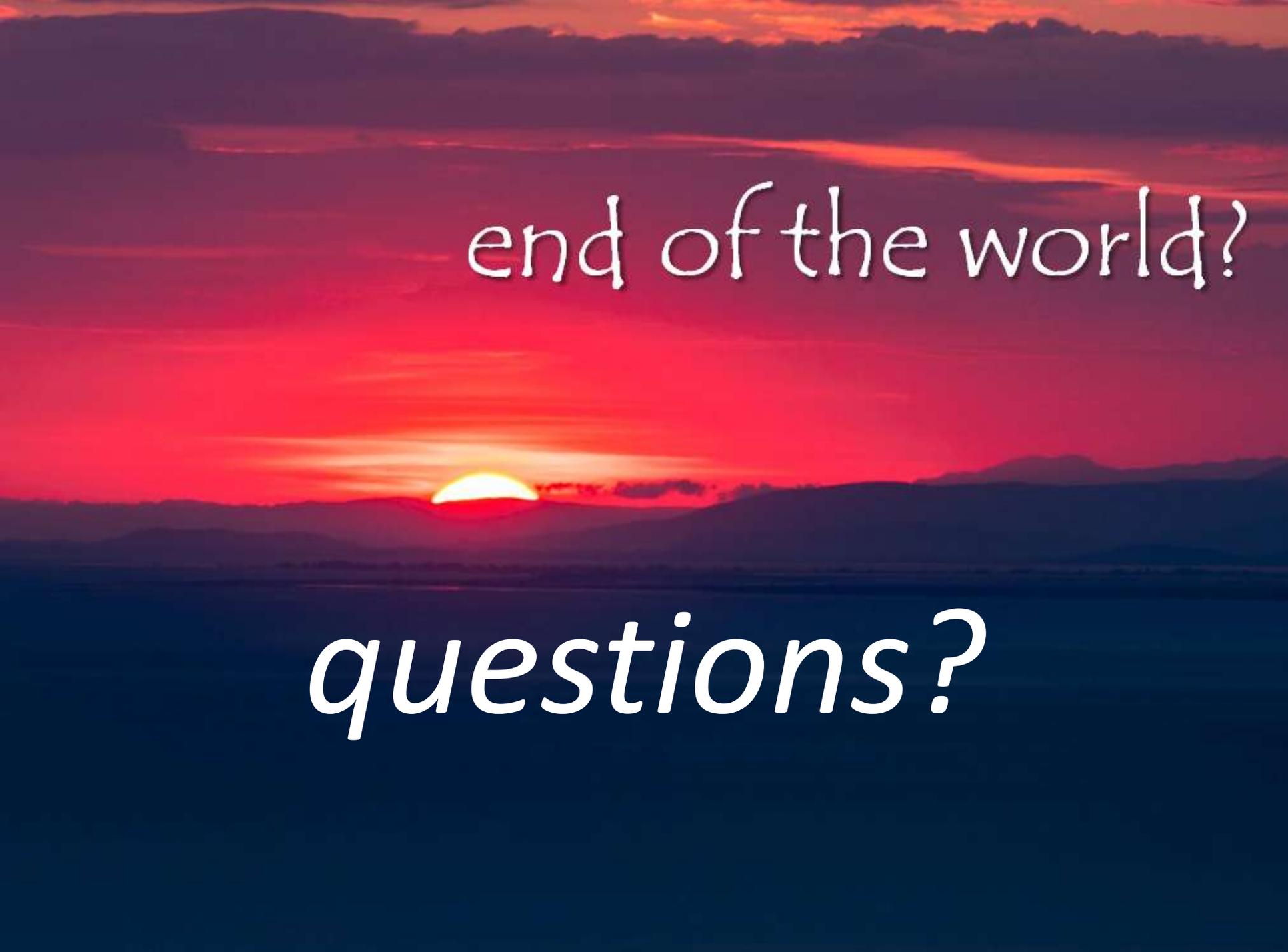
- **Millennium** - exactly 1000 years?
- Seven visions, 'and I saw ...'
19:11, 17, 19 20:1, 4, 11 21:1
- Seven ways of seeing the victory
- 21/22 – His final coming

End times - pastorally

- Speculations about . . .
 - Matt 24:44 'at an hour you do not expect'
- Israel and the land
 - Isaiah 43, Ezekiel 39
- Suffering + healing
 - now and not yet
- Death + life
 - resurrection, creation renewed,
transformed bodily life

End of the world as we know it . . .

- huge area - easy to get distracted
- NT beginnings of the new creation
- inspired into mission
- Your Kingdom come!
- we will meet him in the air



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