

**July 26 2020, God Only Knows
Part 1 in the series 'Ready For Anything'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What is your greatest fear about the future?

What is your greatest hope for the future?

What did the Greek philosopher Heraclitus say about "change"?

In the following passage, Jesus talks about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus' disciples knew that He was the Messiah. However, it was thought that the Messiah was going to be a military leader who would lead a revolution against Israel's foreign oppressors. We understand Jesus' words in light of His crucifixion, resurrection, and the promise of His return.

READ: Luke 21:5-17

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

"Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven."

"But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life."

What does Jesus clearly communicate about life in this world before He returns?

Answer:

Life in this world is unpredictable.

- Nations will go to war
- There will be rebellions and insurrections
- There will be natural disasters
- His followers will be persecuted
- Nations rise and fall

What does He tell us to do regarding these things?

Answer: (verse 9) *“When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened.”*

Why will “everyone hate you” because you are a follower of Jesus?

In what ways is it clear from this passage that we shouldn’t place a lot of value on the things of this world?

At the time, the Temple in Jerusalem was considered the only place on earth that God dwelled. Speaking of its physical destruction would have been seen as blasphemous. Where do Christians believe God now dwells? How does that affect how we live with life’s unpredictability?

Answer: The Holy Spirit lives in us. We are God’s temple.

We can watch buildings and infrastructure be destroyed in war, stock markets rise and fall etc. and still stand firm, knowing that God dwells in us.

How can Jesus say, “*But not a hair of your head will perish.*”?

We are immortal- we will be resurrected. Death is not the end, so we don’t have to worry.

What does it mean to stand firm and win life?

Trust in God, center your life on Jesus, have courage, persevere, do not fear.

READ 1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NLT)

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.”

What is Paul’s goal in praying for those in authority?

Answer: *“...so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity”*

READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

“But you, brothers and sisters, are not living in darkness, and so that day will not surprise you like a thief. You are all people who belong to the light and to the day. We do not belong to the night or to darkness. So we should not be like other people who are sleeping, but we should be alert and have self-control.”

As sons and daughters of God who alone knows what the future holds, what promises and assurances do we have as it pertains to the future?