

# The End... Part 1

2010.07.11 | First Evan | EvenSong

How Knowing the End Gives **MEANING** to the Present

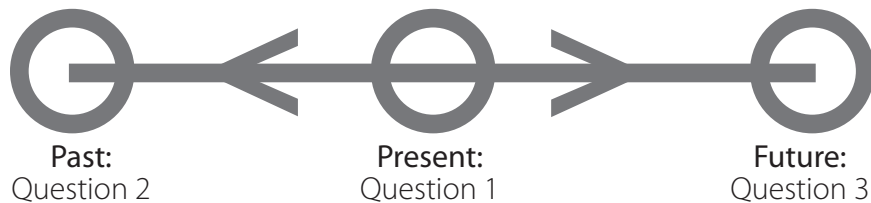
## 1 Hearing The Word: **Acts 17:16-34**

## 2 Why Do We Need to Know About The Last Days and the End Times?

“ **Meaning** is one of the greatest needs in human life, one of our deepest hungers —perhaps it is, in the final analysis, the most basic need in the realm of the human experience.”

[Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*]

## 3 Seeing the Big Picture: What Are The Three Foundational Life Questions:



3.1 Question 1: MEANING and PURPOSE:

“What is the meaning of life?” “Why am I here?”

3.2 Question 2: ORIGIN

“Where did I come from?” “Where did WE come from?”

3.3 Question 3: DESTINY

“How will my life end?” “How will it ALL end?”

“ ... in the end, science does not provide the answers most of us require. Its story of our origins and of our end is, to say the least, unsatisfactory. To the question, “How did it all begin?,” Science answers, “Probably by an accident.” To the question, “How will it all end?,” Science answers, “Probably by an accident.” *And to many people, the accidental life is not worth living.*”

[Neil Postman, *Science and the Story We Need*]

# The End... Part 2

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Knowing the End Motivates Us to **HOPE**

## 1 Hearing the Word: **Revelation 11:15-19**

The Gospel calls the “smaller story” of our life:STORY into the larger:STORY of God’s **Kingdom** work in our world and Eternity. [Creation > Rebellion > Redemption > Judgment > Kingdom]

1.1 Colossians 1:3-14; 3:1-4

1.2 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

## 2 What Does **The Truth** about the End of the Age do for us?

**Romans 15:4** For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures *we may have hope.*

**Key Definition:** **HOPE** is our confident expectation that things will turn out well because God will be who He promises to be and do what He promises to do. Hope is built on the foundation of God’s past works, yet always looks forward to the future completion and perfection of these works.

## 3 Seeing the Big Picture: **>Hope>Faith>Love**

3.1 Everyone **Hopes** in someone (or something) to give meaning and purpose to their lives.

“ You can live forty days without food, three days without water, eight minutes without air, but not one second without hope.”

3.2 Everyone **Trusts** (Faith) in someone or something to give direction to their lives.

**Hebrews 1:1** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the very evidence of things unseen ...

3.3 Everyone **Loves** based on their Hope and Trust.

## The End... Part 3

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Knowing the End Motivates Us to **HOLINESS**

### 1 Hearing the Word: **2 Peter 3:1-13**

1.1 The Scoffers are coming: 1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:1-9

1.2 The Day of the Lord is Coming: Revelation 6:12-17

### 2 Why do we each need to have a **personal understanding of the Last Things (Eschatology)**?

“ When we study the doctrines of eschatology, we should stress their spiritual significance and practical application. They are incentives to purity of life, diligence in service, and hope for the future. They are to be regarded as resources for ministering, not topics for debate.” (Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 1165)

### 3 Seeing the Big Picture: **The Holiness of Love**

**Key Definition:** **HOLINESS** is the unique character of the One True God Himself, shaped and expressed by His **truth, goodness** (righteousness) and **glory** (beauty, splendor).

**1 Thessalonians 3:11-13** Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, 3:12 and may **The Lord** [Jesus] make you increase and **abound in love** for one another and for all, as we do for you, 3:13 **so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness** before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

“ ...in truth there is no greater power on the planet than self-sacrificial love. Coming under others has a power to do what laws and bullets and bombs can never do—namely, bring about transformation in an enemy’s heart. This is the unique “Lamb power” of the Kingdom of God, and indeed, this is the power of God almighty. When God flexes his omnipotent muscle, it doesn’t look like Rambo or the Terminator—it looks like Calvary! And living in this Calvary-like love moment by moment, in all circumstances and in relation to all people, is the sole calling for those who are aligned with the kingdom that Jesus came to bring.”

[Greg Boyd, *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, 32]

## The End... Part 4

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Knowing the End Motivates Us to **ACTION**

### 1 Hearing the Word: **2 Peter 3:8-18**

**Key Definition:** **GRACE** is Father God’s **unearned and unfailing love** that He grants to us in Christ Jesus that gives us access to His **unlimited power** through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

1.1 1 Peter 1

1.2 Hebrews 12:12-29

### 2 So what **difference** does all of this make for our lives?

2.1 How do we wait for the Day of God? (1 Peter 3:12)

2.2 How do we “hasten the coming” of the Day of God?

“ ...remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare... **There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.** Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit— immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.”

[C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*, 15]

### 3 Seeing the Big Picture: **The End is Only The Beginning**

**Hebrews 12:28-29** “...let us be grateful *for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken*, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”