

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Red Bud, Illinois
Adult Bible Class
“What Will the End of the World Be Like?”

Introduction:

How the American Media Might Report on the End of the World:

The New York Times: “The World Ends- Women and Children Especially Burdened”

The Washington Post: “The World Ends- What is the Racial Impact?”

The Wall Street Journal: The World Ends- Stock Futures Plummet”

Entertainment Tonight: “An Interview with Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian about the End of the World”

CNN: “The World Ends- Whose Fault Is It? (A Five-Part Investigative Report)”

FOX News: “The World Ends- Our Beautiful People Report, You Decide”

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch: “The World Ends- Will the Rams Remain in St. Louis?”

National Enquirer: “Guess Which Overweight Hollywood Stars Attended the End of the World”

The point of this being that those who do not care to be prepared for the end of this world, but rather get all wrapped up in the things of the world, really will not understand what is happening when Christ returns and the world does end.

Many have tried to predict (guess) when the world will end. All of them have been wrong. Less discussed is how this world will come to its end. In the nuclear weapons age, some speculate that atomic weapons fired by nations that have them against one another will bring this world to its end. Others surmise that our sun will explode or implode and either burn up the earth or send it into an immediate and final ice age. Some believe that a huge asteroid will strike the earth causing massive destruction. What can we learn about the world's end from God's special revelation of the Holy Bible?

I. Old Testament Passages

A. Psalm 102:25-28

Verse 25: This world's very existence is credited to God from the foundation of the earth up to the heights of the atmosphere.

Verse 26: Change, decay and pass away in all around we see, “but You _____.”

What earthly image does the psalmist use to describe the perishing of the earth? _____

Verse 27: “But You remain the _____, and Your _____ will never _____.”

Verse 28: What does God's unchangeableness (immutability) mean for God's servants, their children, their descendants and us? “will _____ in Your _____;”

“will be _____ before You.”

2 Samuel 7:24 (David prays) “You have established Your people Israel as Your very own forever, and You, O Lord, have become their God.”

B. Isaiah 65:17-19

“With earthly images the prophet is trying to help his generation understand the blessings of eternal life. Luther emphasized that the blessings of God’s new creation begin now for believers” (Lutheran Study Bible, page 1197).

Verse 17: “create” As in Genesis 1:1 this word means divine action, it expresses great and new acts. It is used three times in this section.

What might be included in “the former things that will not be remembered or come to mind”? _____

Psalm 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Verse 18: What will God create? _____ (This is shorthand for where God’s faithful people are. Where is that today? _____)

What words does God use to celebrate this creation?

Verse 19: What is new (and different) about this delight(ful) Jerusalem?

“the sound of _____ and _____ will be _____ in it no more”

C. Isaiah 66:15-24

Verses 15-16: “The Lord will come” This is Judgment Day. **What accompanies the Lord?**

Verse 17: Unbelievers are described here by their pagan rituals and by the eating of that which the Lord has called unclean.

Verse 18: How does God describe Judgment Day? “gather all _____ and _____.”
“they will come and _____ My _____.”

Verse 19: What might be this “sign” that God sets among them? _____
“those who survive”- This may refer to those who have survived the persecution by unbelievers before the judgment or it could refer to survivors of the judgment itself.

These survivors are sent around the world to those who have not heard of God’s fame or seen His glory. *Matthew 24:14 (Jesus said) “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.”*

Verse 20: “brothers”- These are fellow believers who are brought to where God’s people live.

This is described as “my holy _____, in _____.”

What is there? _____ Why are they brought there? _____

Verse 21: “Priests and Levites”: In His eternal kingdom God’s worship servants are no longer limited to one family group. *1Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare to praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

Verse 22: What will “endure” along with the new heavens and the new earth?

“your _____ and _____.”

Verse 23: Instead of observing only certain sacred days and holy festivals, in God’s eternal kingdom all time will be holy for all our time will be spent in the presence of the Lord.

Verse 24: Why are these bodies dead? _____

How does this verse describe what we call “hell” (everlasting torment)?

“their _____ will not _____” **Why this image?** _____

“nor will their _____ be quenched” (continually burning garbage dump)

“they will be _____ to all mankind.”