

Are you ready for the next major global event?

Matthew 24

Global event number 1: God spoke and the world came into being

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen." Hebrews 11:3

Global event number 2: God sent his Son to planet earth on a mission

"He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 1:4

Global event number 3: Jesus is returning to planet earth soon!

(see Matt 24, 1 Thess 4:13-5:8, Rev 22:7-21)

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" Acts 1:11

"Look! He (Jesus) comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him..." Revelation 1:7

What will that day be like for humanity?

i. Day of release for Christ followers

"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved." Rom 8:23-24

ii. Day of reckoning for all people

• Wrongs will be righted

"For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body." 2 Corinthians 5:10

• All wrong doing will be punished

"And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment" Hebrews 9:27

- The choices of our lives will have forever consequences – we need to be ready
 - Faithful Servant & unfaithful servant – Matt 24:45-51
 - Wise & foolish bridesmaids (virgins) – Matt 25:1-13
 - Sheep & goats – Matt 25:31-46

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

iii. Day of rejoicing for God's children

"We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." Revelation 21:3-4

"In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord." Isaiah 11:6-9

How can you be sure you are ready for that day?

- Get to know the Lord Jesus, he will save you - not good things you do
 - "..., so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord." Isaiah 11:9
- Take every opportunity to introduce Jesus to your friends

"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day...People didn't realise what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away." Matthew 24:37 & 39

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming." Matthew 24:42