

THEME: The End Times Puzzle

LOOKING BACK

NOTE: This Session should follow Stage 2, Session 12: The Middle East, Israel, and Jerusalem: Prophecies to Be Fulfilled.

CONNECT

End Times Events

Resources

Bibles, ledger size (A3) paper – one sheet for each pair, pens

Icebreaker Activity - Challenge Yourself!

Things to Prepare: Each pair will be given a piece of ledger-size paper (A3) and some pens.

Have an End Times CHART (see below) ready to share at the end. This chart can be made ahead of time (in landscape mode, not portrait) on four pieces of letter-size (A4) paper, as follows.

Present Age	Final 7 Years (Daniel's 70 th Week): The Tribulation	The Millennium: 1000-Year Reign of Christ	Eternity
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Activity – Do You Know the End Times Events?

1. Ask children to work together in pairs to try and draw a timeline of end-times events on their ledger (A3) papers. Do not tell them anything. Have them work together, given a set time of 5 minutes or so, and see what they can come up with.
2. When time is up, everyone comes together and shares their timelines and ideas.
3. Show them your End Times Chart and go over the four main parts (the four letter-size – A4 – papers) of the end times and how they fit together in order.

Discuss

- There are four main parts to the End Times Chart of events. We know that these four parts will occur in a particular order. Right now, we are in the first part: the present age. How close do you think we are to the final seven years? Where would you place us on the paper? *We can't say for sure how close we are, but we do know that there will be events happening that will be signs to tell us that we have moved into the next part of the timeline.*
- This End Times Chart is very general and not drawn to scale. The first section is our present age, and the last one is eternity. What would we need to do to make this representation to scale? *We would need to make the first part very small and the last part with an infinite amount of paper.*
- Does anyone know why the second part is called Daniel's 70th Week? *It is called a week, but it is a seven-year period, described by Daniel in **Daniel 9:27**.*

- Daniel's 70th Week is sometimes called the seven-year Tribulation period. It is a time when some difficult events will unfold on the Earth. The hardest time will be the second half of the seven years.
- Does anyone know what we call the second half of the seven years? It is called the Great Tribulation.
- If we could make this chart to scale, we would understand that, when compared with all eternity ahead of us, our present time and the time of Tribulation are short. The Great Tribulation time is very short. Why will it be important to remember this? The Bible tells us there will be great difficulties during the final three and a half years.
- We have so much to look forward to beyond the time of Tribulation. The following times of the Millennium and then Eternity will be amazing, and we will be here on Earth to enjoy them! The end times are not the end. Why do you suppose people refer to the time of Jesus' return as "end" times? They signify the end of the present age and the end of an era of time, but actually, they are just the beginning for those of us who put our hope in Jesus' return.
- Where on this chart do you think Jesus' return happens? It is at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period and just before the Millennium.
- Do you know what happens in the Millennium? Jesus will rule and reign on the Earth from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. His followers will be there with Him! It'll be incredible.
- Towards the end of the 1,000 years, satan will lead people to rebel a final time, and he will be defeated forever. Then, sitting on a great white throne, God will judge all people. After this judgment, the Bible says there will be a new Heaven and a new Earth. The Heavenly city of Jerusalem will come down to Earth, and God the Father will be on Earth with us!
- Much of our understanding about these events to come is from the book of Revelation. Today, we will hear what Jesus thinks about this book and its importance for us in these days.

TRUTH TO KNOW

Faith Focus: Keep His Words

Introduction

We want to help you know the Truth and will do our best to tell you what is true, but you don't just need to take our word. You need to read it in the Bible for yourself. So we will open the Bible and read the Truth each time we meet. This week's "Truth to Know" is found in **Revelation 22:7**.

Did you know the Bible tells us to keep the words of the prophecies of the book of Revelation?

Background to This Bible Passage

The book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible, and it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit by John the Apostle. John had been exiled to an island called Patmos, and it was here that Jesus appeared to John and told him to write down the words of the book of Revelation.

The Unfolding Story - Your Interactive Teaching

Read **Revelation 1:3** and **22:7**.

- What does Jesus say will happen to whoever reads or hears the words of Revelation? They are blessed.
- Why do you think they will be blessed? They know what to expect in hard times and so have hope for the future, no matter what happens in the middle, because they know the end and who reigns over all.
- Revelation unfolds understanding of many of the coming events of the end times, the end of the age before Jesus returns. As we saw in **Revelation 22:7**, Jesus tells John that He is coming quickly. This refers to the fact that Jesus will return to Earth, which will be on God's timetable.
- If we want more blessings, what do we have to do according to **Revelation 22:7**? Keep the words of the book of Revelation.
- If we look up the word for "keep" in Greek, the language in which the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation, we see that it means guarding, not just holding onto, the words.
- What comes to mind when you think about guarding something that needs to be guarded? It is valuable; it can't be replaced, and people will want to rob it from us.
- That is how Jesus sees the words of Revelation. The enemy would love to steal away the book of Revelation because of how valuable and important it is to the church, especially in these days before the return of Jesus. Keeping the words of the book of Revelation will help us to have hope, no matter what. The return of Jesus is our Blessed Hope.

Activity Suggestion - End Times Events Puzzle

Aim: To try to put together several end times events into a puzzle.

Things to Prepare: Cut out the paper puzzle pieces and prepare one set of puzzle pieces for each small group (2-3 people per group). Each puzzle piece represents an important end-time event. Have the end times chart (the four letter-size – A4 – pieces) from the Icebreaker Activity ready. You will show it at the end of this activity. Have complete (uncut) puzzles available for each person to take home after today's session.

Activity – Putting the Pieces Together

- Call out each puzzle piece separately and ask each group to find the piece in turn. Ask them to hold it up high so all can see, then try to fit the piece into the puzzle.
- Briefly discuss each piece and its Bible reference as you create the puzzles.
- Continue until all the pieces of the puzzle are in place.

Discuss

- Let's look again at the end times chart from the Icebreaker Activity. How does the puzzle compare to the chart? The puzzle is much more detailed than the chart, but we can see that the puzzle has the same overall shape. In addition, the order of the four main parts in the chart is the same as in the puzzle.
- Which book of the Bible was referenced the most during this activity? Recall that the biblical references are on the back of each puzzle piece. Most of the references were from the book of Revelation, and this is the book of the Bible that Jesus told John we must guard.
- Imagine for a moment if our Bibles did not have the book of Revelation. How would we know what was coming in the times ahead? We would not know what was coming and, therefore, would not be able to prepare our hearts for it. We might lose hope. God wants us to be ready and full of hope, and that is why we are to keep and guard the words of the book of Revelation.

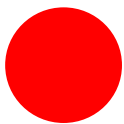
- Why do you suppose we put the key events of the end times into a puzzle and not a timeline? We know what the events are and that they link together, but we do not know the exact timing or the precise order.
- If the order of end times events is unclear, why is it helpful to put the events into a puzzle? God's end times timeline is organized according to the unfolding of prophetic events, which are like signposts. We may not know the exact order, but we can become very familiar with the individual events. Then, when they start to happen, we will know that we are moving along God's timeline.

READY TO GO

Thinking about how this affects our lives and our response to the signs we see.

Think about what you will do to respond to the words of Jesus and to guard the words of the book of Revelation.

TIME FOR ACTION



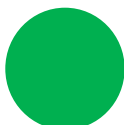
1. "STOP & THINK" Action Point

Take two minutes to think about your own life. Jesus wants His followers to know and to guard the words of the book of Revelation. What might this look like in your own life?



2. "PAUSE TO PRAY" Action Point

Have a conversation with God about today's lesson. The unfolding of events in the end times is written down for us, mainly in the book of Revelation. Jesus has given this book to us as a wonderful gift so that we can know it, guard its words, and be blessed. Thank Him for giving us all we will need in the end times.



3. "GO & DO" Action Point

Choose one puzzle piece from today's activity you want to know more about. Discuss your reasons for choosing this piece.

SPRINGBOARD

Discuss what topic you would like to do together next time. After this session, you may wish to follow up next time with one of the following sessions:

- Keeping Jesus Central
- Don't Be Afraid
- How to Listen to the News

DEEPER STUDY

For those who would like to study further the themes raised in this session.

For Study

1. Read **Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11**. What do all three verses have in common? What do you think will happen at the midpoint of the final seven-year period? Who do you think these scriptures are talking about?
2. Read **Daniel 12:4,9**. According to these verses, what do we expect to happen as we approach the time of the end? How might you know if this is beginning to happen? What will you look for?

For Memorizing

1. **Revelation 1:3** (NIV): "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."
2. **Revelation 22:7** (NIV): "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

For Observation - Six Day War Opens a Door

1. When Israel regained sovereignty over Jerusalem in the Six Day War of 1967, this gave Jewish people access to the Temple Mount and opened a door for constructing a third Temple. Since then, a group has emerged, making concrete plans and raising money for another Jewish Temple to be built. Watch this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thl-i5Lbxp0) to learn more (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thl-i5Lbxp0>). Visit this [website](https://thirdtemple.org/en) to see what that temple might look like (<https://thirdtemple.org/en>). Why do you think this is an essential end times development as we look forward to Jesus' return? Look at the study passages above and **2 Thessalonians 2:3** and **Matthew 24:15** to see how the antichrist will use this temple.

For Action: Learn About the Red Heifers

1. As we move closer to seeing Jesus return to Earth, there will be more talk and action for building a third temple in Jerusalem. Have you heard about the biblical requirement for the ashes of a red heifer before Israel can restart sacrifices in the new temple? In September 2022, five red heifers were found and sent from Texas to Israel for close observation. What are many Jewish people waiting for, and why? Watch this [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zR7pvy_uo) to learn more (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zR7pvy_uo). Knowing that the antichrist will use this temple and that this has to happen before Jesus returns, do you think Christians should support this? Try arguing both for and against Christians supporting it.

Before the Next IN:Tribe:

1. You will be given your own end times puzzle to take home today. Cut out all the pieces and try building the puzzle yourself. Besides putting together the puzzle, how might you use the puzzle pieces to help keep the words of the book of Revelation (as Jesus commanded in **Revelation 22:7**)? Come ready next time to share your ideas with the group.