

Introduction: How can you know your needs will be met when the future is uncertain?

Give us today our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

The Desert = The world you live in right now

The Promised Land = Heaven/The Kingdom of God

Two simple ideas:

1. God will _____ what you need today.
2. It's a _____ through a desert, but God is taking you somewhere far better.

Important truth:

Earth's tragedies are _____; Christ's victory is _____.

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33b

Our hope is twofold:

1. God will always sustain us and give us what we need today.
2. This world is not our home and Christ will take us to a better world.

Where will this lead?

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?" ⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ **You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ **Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of Me. ¹⁰ **At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.******

Matthew 24:3-14

How can we respond?

1. The world needs the _____ more than ever.

2. The Church needs _____ more than ever. Romans 15:13

"Hope in Christ before the crisis so you can stand strong in the crisis."

3. Now is the time to go _____ for the Kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. Take a moment to read Matthew 24:3-14. In this passage, Jesus predicts that many wars, famines, and ruptures of society will occur before He returns. Jesus instructs believers to not panic when these things happen (see verse 7). What should be the focus of our response when such things do happen? (see verses 13 & 14)

2. Pastor John mentioned, “Earth’s tragedies are temporary, but Christ’s victories are eternal.” Is there a way for you to cement this idea in your mind in preparation for any future tragedies you may face?

3. Based on the three ways we can respond:
 - The world needs the Church more than ever.
 - The Church needs Christ more than ever.
 - Now is the time to go all-in for the Kingdom.

Which of these three most spoke to you, and why?