



REVELATION

*A Survival Manual
for the End of the Age*

Pastor Michael Cranford

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Schedule

- September 14 Introduction: Cultural Markers, Rev 1
- September 21 Rev 1-3
- September 28 Rev 1-3 (continued)
- October 5 Rev 4
- October 12 OFF (Baptism)
- October 19 OFF (Pastor Michael at a conference)
- October 26 Rev 6



DECEMBER 8, 2022



About four-in-ten U.S. adults believe humanity is 'living in the end times'

BY JEFF DIAMANT



(Mike Kemp/In Pictures via Getty Images)

Periods of catastrophe and anxiety, such as the [coronavirus pandemic](#), have historically led some people to anticipate that the destruction of the world as we know it – the “end times” – is near. This thinking often has a [religious component](#) that draws on sacred scripture. In Christianity, for example, these beliefs include expectations that Jesus will return to Earth after or amid a time of great turmoil.

How we did this 

In the United States, 39% of adults say they believe “we are living in the end times,” while 58% say they do *not* believe we are

U.S. Protestants in evangelical and historically Black traditions especially likely to believe humanity is ‘living in

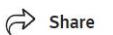
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America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It, WSJ-NORC Poll Finds

Patriotism, religion and hard work hold less importance

By [Aaron Zitner](#) 

March 27, 2023 5:30 am ET



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Some 38% of poll respondents said patriotism was very important to them, down sharply from prior years. Photo: David Goldman/Associated Press

Patriotism, religious faith, having children and other priorities that helped define the national character for generations [are receding in importance to Americans](#), a new Wall Street Journal-NORC poll finds.

Science & Tech

Elon Musk: Google Wants To Create An AI GOD

by Steve Watson

April 18th 2023, 5:27 am



- Musk stated that Google's ultimate goal is to "create digital super intelligence"



Image Credit: Screenshot

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During his bombshell interview with Tucker Carlson, aired Monday, Elon Musk revealed that Google has long planned to create an AI God and that Musk has repeatedly warned the company's owners against it.

Musk stated that Google's ultimate goal is to "create digital super intelligence" or what he describes as a "digital god."

Tuesday, February 2, 20XX

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Mindless nihilistic destruction is now tolerated by the elites.



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One evening a few weeks ago, about [100 young people ransacked a Wawa convenience store](#) in Philadelphia. The mob stole merchandise, knocked over shelves and threw food and drinks around, leaving the store looking like a natural disaster had hit it. Many got their phones out to record the madness. As chaos reigned, a young woman twerked on a counter. Fighting spilled out into the parking lot.

The rampage in Wawa mirrored an incident in Philadelphia a month earlier, when [dozens of youths trashed the Zion Cuisine restaurant](#) in the Germantown area of the city. Teens flipped tables, broke glasses and threw chairs at the staff. And scenes such as those at Wawa and Zion Cuisine are not unique to Philadelphia – they are happening all over America. Two weeks ago in Virginia, [a group of teens assaulted a movie-theatre employee](#) while ransacking a concession counter.

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TRANSGENDER

Why Is Transgender Identity on the Rise Among Teens?

A new study of social contagion raises important clinical and ethical questions.

Posted November 28, 2018 | Reviewed by Gary Drevitch



Transgender identity* is characterized by experiencing distress with, or an inability to identify with one's biological sex, usually prompting a desire to live one's life as the opposite sex.

In the **DSM-5**, the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals, this condition is known as "gender dysphoria." Note that classifying gender dysphoria as a disorder does *not*—indeed, should not—imply a moral judgment of transgender individuals. Depending on the degree of social stigma associated with it, transgender identity can be accompanied by very significant distress. The point of the mental-health outlook is to help reduce stigma and assist transgender individuals in leading good lives. The role of social norms in this picture, however, remains unclear and hotly debated.

The historical and cross-cultural record indicates that conditions akin to what we now call "transgender identity" have been known to occur in all societies, with varying degrees of acceptance, suppression, or even encouragement. The widespread acceptance of individuals who were born males and dress and live as females, such as the *hijra* in **India**, *katoey* in **Thailand**,

Transgender Essential Reads



Silence of the Trans



How Gamers Use Video Games to Explore Their Gender Identity



What You May Not Know About Being Trans or Nonbinary



Moving Beyond the Biomedical Binary



Transgender Sexuality Is Less Complicated Than You Think

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05:08 ET, Fri, Sep 5, 2025 | Updated: 05:13 ET, Fri, Sep 5, 2025

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HEALTH

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Pages from the U.S. 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline website are arranged for a photograph in New York on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024. (AP Photo/Patrick Sison)

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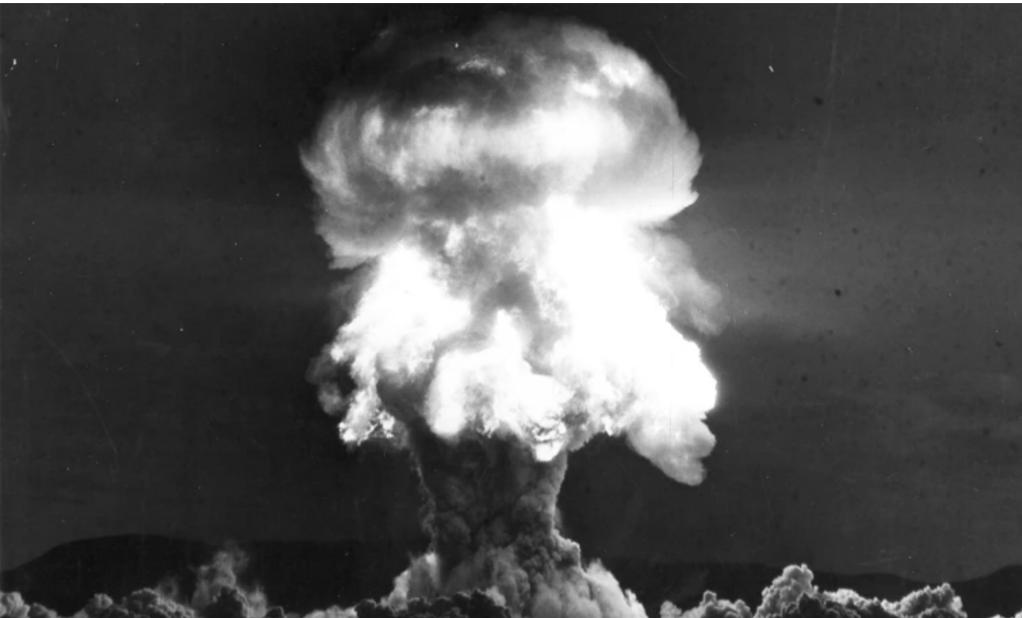
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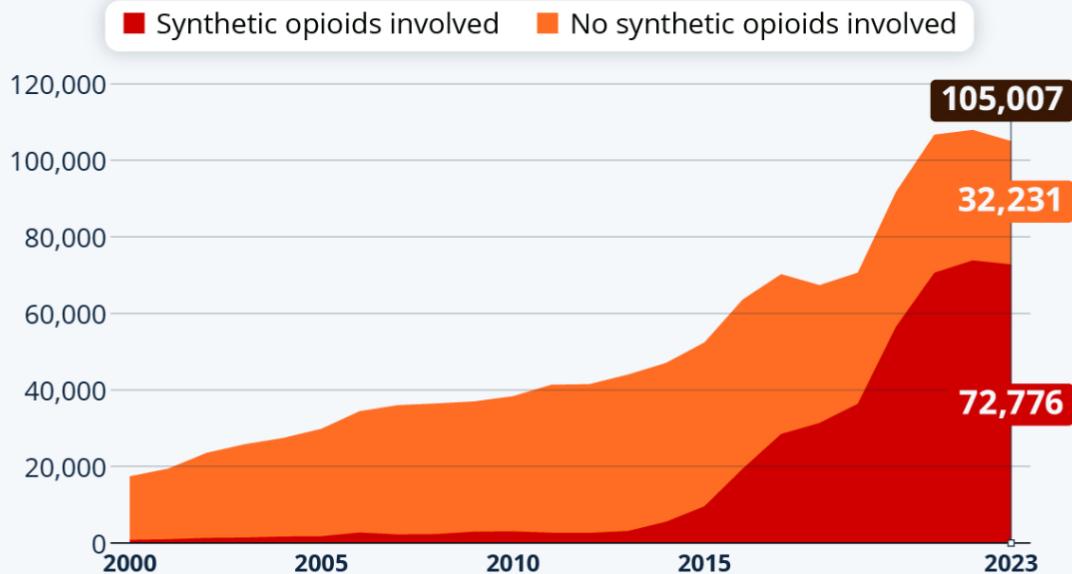


[Scientists can strengthen nuclear agreements](#)



Fentanyl Fuels Surge in U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths

Estimated number of drug overdose deaths (not) involving synthetic opioids in the U.S.*



* Synthetic opioids other than methadone - primarily fentanyl

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



statista

DESCRIPTION

This chart shows the number of drug overdose deaths in the U.S. from 2000 to 2023.

Report

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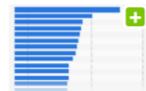


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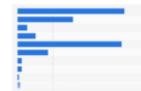
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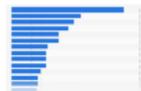
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Drug overdose death rate
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Deaths from opioid
overdose in Canada in
2024, by province



Number of U.S. drug
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The Threat Of Biological Warfare Is Increasing, And The U.S. Isn't Ready

By [Loren Thompson](#), Senior Contributor. I write about national security, esp... dropdown

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Published Apr 09, 2018, 11:13am EDT, Updated Apr 09, 2018, 05:21pm EDT

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During the Cold War, the big threats to national security changed little from year to year. Because threats were predictable, the U.S. government was able to mount a focused, effective response that prevented World War Three.

Today, threats are harder to anticipate. From the use of jetliners in the 9-11 attacks to the appearance of improvised explosive devices in Iraq to the growing use of drones by our enemies to the proliferation of cyber threats, policymakers are continuously being confronted by unexpected challenges.

The military has a catchall term for such dangers. It calls them "asymmetric threats," meaning threats that attack us where we are least prepared. It is nearly impossible to mount a focused, effective response because the threats and their perpetrators are too diverse. If you can imagine something bad, it's probably going to happen. We just don't know when or where.



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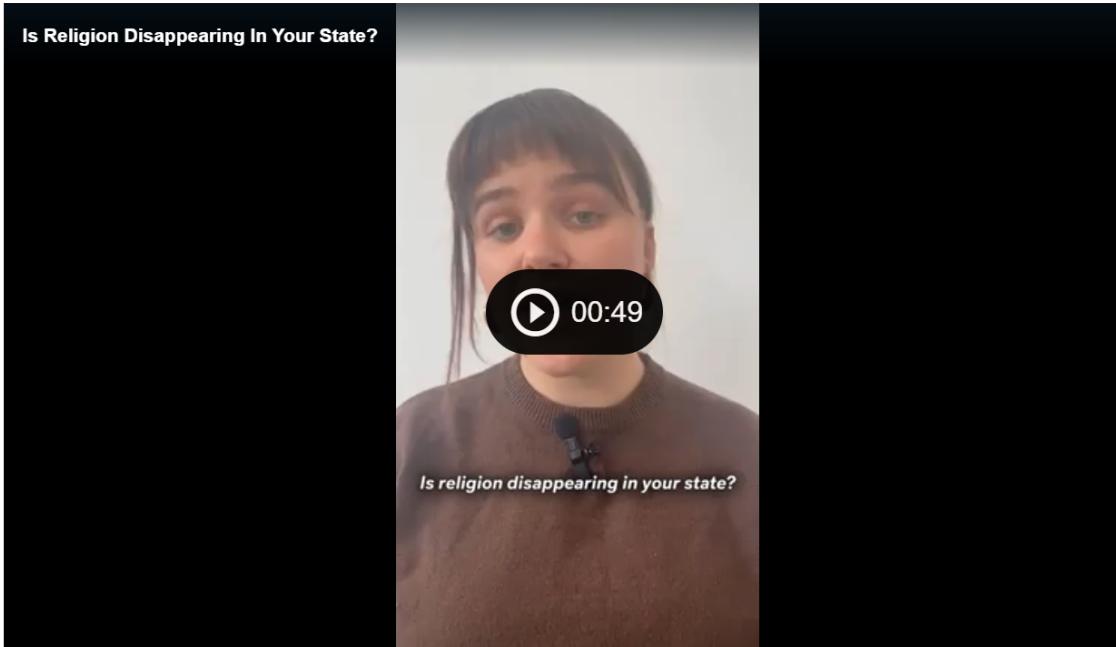
News

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America in 'Second Stage' of Religious Decline, Study Suggests

Published Sep 03, 2025 at 1:31 PM EDT

By [Jordan King](#)

US News Reporter

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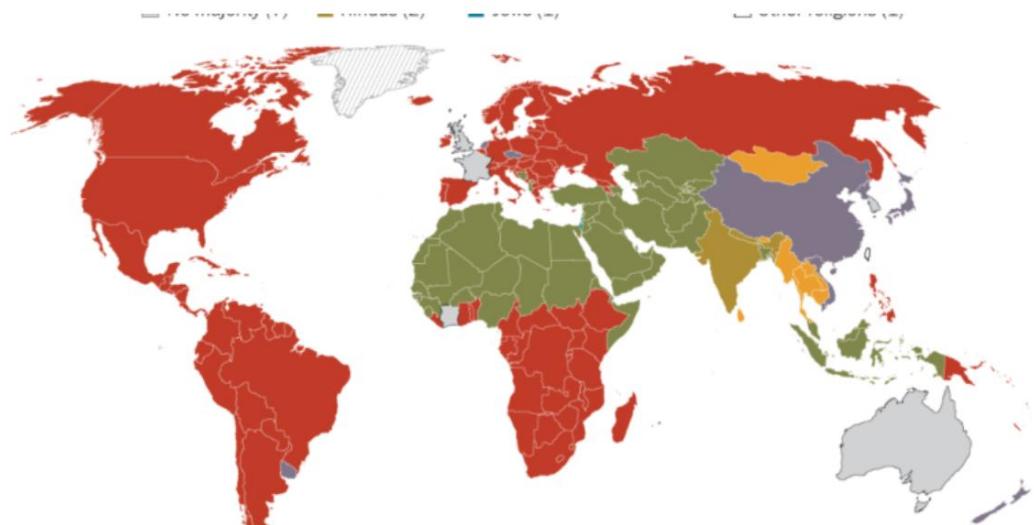
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Global Christianity in decline: Fewer countries held a Christian majority in 2020

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The number of countries where Christians form a majority has declined over the past decade, according to a new report by the Pew Research Center, reflecting shifting religious landscapes and a rise in religiously unaffiliated populations worldwide.

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CURRENT ISSUE

The Decline of Moral Values and Tradition in America at a Crossroads

Written by [Dylan Heidt, Recovery Coach](#)

Dylan Heidt is a board-certified Recovery Specialist with a unique ability to draw from a wide pallet of extensive lived experience. A deep understanding of others enables him to connect with clients on a profound level, fostering meaningful growth and transformative change in the lives of everyone that he serves.



Dylan Heidt

Executive Contributor Brainz Magazine

We find ourselves today in a time of great uncertainty, in a nation that seems to be struggling with its very identity. The America we once knew, a land of faith, family, and personal responsibility, is slipping away, right before our very eyes. The traditions that bound us together for generations are now ridiculed, discarded, and replaced with an ever-changing tide of moral relativism and cultural decay. This is not just a shift in culture. It is a slow, methodical unraveling of the very fabric that made the United States the most prosperous, free, and virtuous nation in history. It is a crisis, a crisis of values, of tradition, and of character. And if we do not confront it, if we do not reclaim what was lost, we will watch the country we love continue its descent into moral chaos and calamity.





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Chinese President Xi Jinping said the world is standing at an important crossroads.

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OPINION

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Published August 18, 2025 7:00am EDT



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The Future Of Money: Will Digital Currencies Replace Fiat?



By [Ali Faizan Rizvi](#), Forbes Councils Member.

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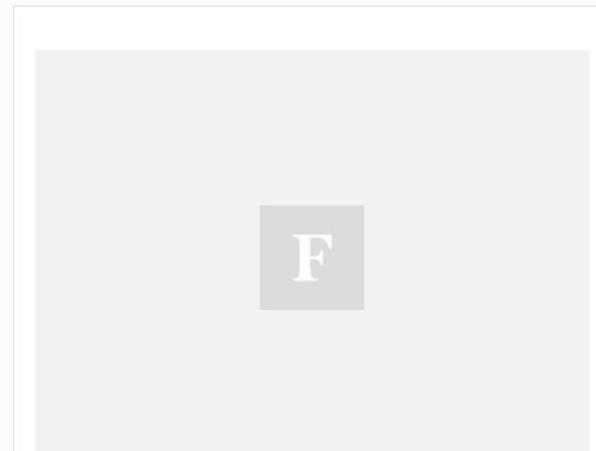
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Ali Faizan Rizvi | Chief Commercial Officer | Mint Gateway.



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The financial landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, with digital payments, cryptocurrencies and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) gaining prominence. The rapid evolution of financial technologies and shifting consumer behaviors are driving discussions on whether these innovations will completely replace traditional fiat currencies or coexist in a



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CBS MORNINGS

Newly released video at House UFO hearing appears to show U.S. missile striking and bouncing off orb



By Charlie D'Agata

Updated on: September 10, 2025 / 12:53 PM EDT / CBS News

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The Olivet Discourse

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 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?” (Matt 24:1-3)

Jesus indicates that there are signs to watch for (and not to be deceived by false markers)

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.

Jesus identifies the prophecy of Daniel 9 as a key indicator that the time of distress has arrived

¹⁵ “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸ Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹ How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰ Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

²² “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ²³ At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. ²⁴ For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you ahead of time.

Jesus confirms that there will be massive atmospheric disruption at his return, and that it will be impossible to miss

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. **27** For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **28** Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. **31** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Jesus tells us that there will be clear, intuitive signs when the end is here (i.e., it's going to be hard to miss) and that it might take many years (i.e., it's not for people in his time)

³² “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ³³ Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁴ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Jesus tells us that this prophecy is still important for all Christians in all times, because we all need to be ready, whether it happens now or later.

³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Jesus reminds us that what is at stake is our eternal salvation. People who are not ready (who are not faithful at the time of his return) are none other than those who face eternal separation from God. This warning is for “Christians.”

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. ⁴⁷ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ ⁴⁹ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. ⁵⁰ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. ⁵¹ He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Summary thoughts. This is why we take our futurist position on Revelation.

1. The Olivet Discourse tells us not only that there are specific events surrounding the return of Christ and the end of the age, but that we are supposed to look for them. This means Jesus expects us to read Scripture and compare it to the world we live in.
2. Only the futurist approach to books like Revelation make sense in light of Jesus' words. There is very little information about the time of tribulation ("great distress") in Scripture except Revelation.
3. The fact that Revelation (and other prophetic material in the Bible) has specific importance to the people who live at the end of the age doesn't mean it has no importance to Christians in all times. All of the Bible has specific importance to someone.
4. Jesus connects the great tribulation to Daniel's prophecy. This means Daniel provides the framework to the final seven years of the age. (Daniel 9:27)
5. Jesus' words imply that the end of the age was not coming immediately, and in fact, might be a long time in the future.

Views on Revelation.

1. **Historicist**
2. **Preterist**
3. **Idealist**
4. **Futurist**
 - a) **Dispensational** (see Romans 11:25-29; Luke 21:24)
 - b) **Classic Premillennialism**
5. **Eclectic**