

Fear of Global Calamity

To introduce and remind you of the following realities:

- Catastrophes dominate the day; don't let them dominate you.
- We can trust Jesus.

Supporting Scripture

- “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. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 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 24:6–14 niv)
- “See to it that you are not alarmed.” (Matthew 24:6 niv)
- “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:3 kjv)
- “All these things [challenging times] are the beginning of birth pains.” (Matthew 24:8 niv)
- “These things must come to pass.” (Matthew 24:6)

What if things only get worse?

I. Things Will Get Worse

A. Bravery is still an option.

- “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. Nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 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 24:6–14 niv)

B. Don't freak out.

- “Don't freak out at the heresy, calamity, and apostasy. Don't give in or give up, for you'll soon witness the victory. Jesus equipped his followers with far-sighted courage. He listed the typhoons of life and then pointed them 'to the end.' Trusting in ultimate victory gives ultimate courage.”
- “All these things [challenging times] are the beginning of birth pains.” (Matthew 24:8 niv)

II. Pollyanna Optimism, Chicken Little Doom

A. We gain nothing by glossing over the brutality of human existence (Pollyanna Optimism), rather we should be rationally aware of the reality we face.

- “See to it that you are not alarmed.” (Matthew 24:6 niv)
- “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:3 kjv)

B. The Old Testament people of God knew peace.

- “Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this I will be confident.” (Psalm 27:3 kjv)

III. A Whole New World

A. Every trial and trouble has a place in God's grand scheme.

- “These things must come to pass.” (Matthew 24:6)

B. Above all chaos, a divine plan reigns.

- “Everything will work out in the end. If it's not working out, it's not the end.”