

# Momentum/Friction

## Module: Foundations

### Addendum 2: The End of the World

#### Objectives:

- Give students an understanding of the Biblical depiction of the end of the world
- Prepare students to share this information in an effective manner with others

#### Materials Needed:

- ☐ Video Clip – Armageddon - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfAfQxb1\\_GQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfAfQxb1_GQ) (Cue to: 34 and run to 2:09).
- ☐ Handout “What the Bible Says about the End of the Earth” per student
- ☐ Handout “Questioning the End of the Earth” per student
- ☐ Pens/pencils per student
- ☐ Handout “The Jewish Wedding” per student (if using alternate ending)

## Minds On

Begin this lesson by saying something like: *In the 1980's Douglas Adams wrote a book entitled The Restaurant at the End of the Universe in which patrons of the restaurant were sent through time to witness the cataclysmic end of all things. It was not the first book to envision the fate of all things. Neither will it be the last. The movie 2012 has brought this to the forefront of our minds. Will the world end in 2012?*

To get the students engaged cue the video clip of Armageddon and play it. Alternatively, if you have access to it, you can cue any of the scenes from 2012 showing the destruction of portions of the earth (these were not available in the public domain at the time of writing). Before you show the clip let the students know that they are about to watch a clip from 2012 that show the destruction of portions of the earth. Have them pay attention to how the movie portrays the destruction of the earth.

## Action

Following the introduction open by saying something like: *What will happen at the end of the earth is a question that has been asked for centuries. You've seen one of the scenarios played out in this movie.* Have the students then spend a few minutes sharing various ideas that they have heard , seen or read about how the world will end. Spend at least 5 minutes in sharing.

Distribute the handout "What the Bible Says about the End of the World." Say something like: *We want to spend our time looking at how the Bible depicts the end of the earth. To start that process we will look at a few verses from the Bible that illustrates various aspects of the end of all things.* Break them up into groups two or three and give them at least 10 minutes to look up each reference on the handout and write down what each verse says about the end of the world.

Have each group come back together and share their findings with the whole group.

Say something like: *There is still a lot of confusion regarding what exactly will happen at the end of the world. The Bible has many obscure references to beasts with 7 heads, numbers like 666 and a woman riding a dragon. The reality is that much of this book doesn't make sense at first glance. Compounding the issue is that we just don't have time in this lesson to unpack all of the metaphors and images in the Bible. Is there a way to understand all of this? While we don't have time to fully explore all of the symbols in the Bible, we do want to come up with a general idea of what the Bible says about the end of the earth. To do that we will answer some basic questions.*

Distribute the handout "Questioning the End of the World". Give students at least 10 minutes to work through this handout. Come together again and discuss this basic timeline.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Conclude this lesson by summarizing the main parts of the events of the end of the earth. Say something like: *It is true that the exact details of the end of the earth are known only to God. However, the Bible is very clear on a general outline of events. There will come a day when Christ will return. That day could be today. All people who are living and have ever lived will be called before the judgement seat of God. At that point we will all be guilty of sinning and deserving of eternal separation from God. However, everyone who has accepted the Lord as their Saviour will be giving eternal life on the new heaven and the new earth. Those who reject God will be cast into the lake of fire where they will suffer for eternity. The existing earth will be destroyed and a new heaven and earth will be created. At least on these parts we can all agree."*

You may want to consider ending this time with a simple invitation for those who have never asked Jesus into their hearts to do so. Spend some time in prayer for the students that God would give them the assurance of their salvation if they have accepted Him. This may be an appropriate time to remind them of the basic points of the preceding lesson on Salvation.

- As a bonus to this lesson you may choose to spend some time leading your students through the attached comparison of the Jewish traditions surrounding their marriage ceremonies and the outline of the end of the world as recorded in the handout “Jewish Wedding”. One of the most recurring themes in the Bible is the analogy of the marriage between Christ and the Church. It is important when studying the Bible to remember that it was written largely by Jews, about Jews and for Jews. As such, a look at the Jewish marriage customs helps us understand how the analogy of us as the bride of Christ helps us understand the events of the end of the world.

**Handout: Addendum 2**

# **What the Bible Says About the End of the World**

<b>Bible Reference</b>	<b>End Times Depiction</b>
Genesis 3:15	
Matthew 24:27	
Acts 17:31	
1 Thess. 4:16-17	
Revelation 7:9-17	
Revelation 21:1-4	

**Handout: Addendum 2**

# **What the Bible Says About the End of the World- Answer Key**

<b>Bible Reference</b>	<b>End Times Depiction</b>
Genesis 3:15	- Christ will crush Satan
Matthew 24:27	- Christ will return like a bright light
Acts 17:31	- All the world will be judged
1 Thess. 4:16-17	- Lord will come down from heaven with the voice of an angel and the sound of a trumpet
Revelation 7:9-17	- Those who survived the Tribulation will worship the Lord
Revelation 21:1-4	- New heaven and new earth will replace the old. New Jerusalem will come down and God will reign over the new city

**Handout: Addendum 2**

## **Questioning the End of the World**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
When will the world come to an end? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Matthew 24:36</li></ul>	
How will we know that Christ is coming back? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matt. 24:30</li></ul>	
What will happen to us when Christ returns? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1 Thessalonians 4:17</li><li>- John 5:28-29</li></ul>	
What will happen to the earth when Christ returns? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2 Peter 3:10</li><li>- Revelation 6:14</li></ul>	
What should we do until Christ returns? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2 Peter 3:7-10, 14</li><li>- Matthew 25:1-13</li><li>- 2 Peter 3:18</li></ul>	
Why does the world have to come to an end? Couldn't Christ just forgive us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Romans 3:10,23, 6:23</li><li>- Ezekiel 18:4</li></ul>	

Who will survive the destruction of the earth? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- John 3:16-18</li><li>- Matthew 25:46</li></ul>	
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**Handout: Addendum 2**

## **Questioning the End of the World-Answer Key**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
When will the world come to an end? - Matthew 24:36	- Only God knows
How will we know that Christ is coming back? - 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Matt. 24:30	- Sound of a trumpet, sign in the heavens
What will happen to us when Christ returns? - 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - John 5:28-29	- Dead will rise again - Living will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air
What will happen to the earth when Christ returns? - 2 Peter 3:10 - Revelation 6:14	- Heavens and earth will be destroyed
What should we do until Christ returns? - 2 Peter 3:7-10, 14 - Matthew 25:1-13 - 2 Peter 3:18	- Waiting for His return - Reaching out to others
Why does the world have to come to an end? Couldn't Christ just forgive us? - Romans 3:10,23, 6:23 - Ezekiel 18:4	- All have sinned and deserve death
Who will survive the destruction of the earth? - John 3:16-18 - Matthew 25:46	- All who believe in God - The upright will enter into eternal life



## Handout: Addendum 2

# The Jewish Wedding

### Ancient Wedding Practices

#### Marriage Covenant and Bride Price

When a young man desired to marry a young woman in ancient Israel, he would prepare a contract or covenant to present to the young woman and her father at the young woman's home. The contract showed his willingness to provide for the young woman and described the terms under which he would propose marriage. The most important part of the contract was the bride price, the price that the young man was willing to pay to marry the young woman. This payment was to be made to the young woman's father in exchange for his permission to marry.

The bride price was generally quite high. Sons were considered to be more valuable than daughters since they were physically more able to share in the work of farming and other heavy labour. The bride price compensated the young woman's family for the cost to raise a daughter and also indicated the love that the young man had for the young woman -- the young woman was very valuable to the young man! The young man would go to the young woman's house with the contract and present his offer to the young woman and her father.

### Jesus' Fulfillment

#### Marriage Covenant and Bride Price

Jesus came to the home of His bride (earth) to present His marriage contract. The marriage contract provided by Jesus is the new covenant, which provides for the forgiveness of sins of God's people. Jesus paid the bride price with His life. At the last supper, when breaking bread, He spoke of the price He was paying: "...*This is my body given for you...*" -- Luke 22:20. Hebrews 8:15 makes it clear that Jesus died as the price for the new covenant: "...*Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance -- now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*" Other Scripture references include 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Acts 20:28 and John 3:29.

The marriage contract, the new covenant, is described throughout Scripture: "...*This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,*" declares the LORD. "*I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,*" declares the LORD. "*For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.*" -- Jeremiah 31:31-34.

### The Cup

If the bride price was agreeable to the young woman's father, the young man would pour a glass of wine for the young woman. If the young woman drank the wine, it would indicate her acceptance of the proposal. At this point, the young man and young woman would be betrothed. Betrothal was legally binding, just like a marriage. The only difference was that the marriage was not yet consummated. A typical betrothal period was 1-2 years. During this time the bride and bridegroom each would be preparing for the marriage and wouldn't see each other.

### The Cup

Just as the bridegroom would pour a cup of wine for the bride to drink to seal the marriage contract, so Jesus poured wine for His disciples. His words described the significance of the cup in representing the bride price for the marriage contract: *Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."* -- Matt. 26:28-29 The disciples drank of the cup, thus accepting the contract.

### Gifts for the Bride

Next, the bridegroom would present the bride with special gifts. The purpose of these gifts was to show the bridegroom's appreciation of the bride. They were also intended to help her to remember him during the long betrothal period.

### Gifts for the Bride

The gifts that Jesus gave us are the gifts of the Holy Spirit: *We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit* -- 1 John 4:13.

Jesus described this gift in John 14:26: *But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

### Mikveh

The bride would next partake of a Mikveh, or cleansing bath. Mikveh is the same word used for baptism. To this

### Mikveh

The Mikveh, or baptism that Jesus provided for His bride was baptism in the Holy Spirit. *On one occasion, while He*

day in conservative Judaism a bride cannot marry without a Mikveh.

*was eating with them, He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." -- Acts 1:4.*

Preparing a Place

During the betrothal period, the bridegroom would prepare a wedding chamber for the honeymoon. This chamber was typically built in the bridegroom's father's house. The wedding chamber had to be a beautiful place to bring the bride. The bride and groom were to spend seven days there. The wedding chamber had to be built to the groom's father's specifications. The young man could go for his bride only when his father approved. If the bridegroom was asked when the wedding was to be, he might well say "it is not for me to know, only my father knows".

Preparing a Place

Just as a bridegroom would have told his bride that he would go to prepare a place for her, so Jesus told His disciples: *"...In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. -- John 13:1-3.*

Just as in ancient Israel, the bridegroom could go for his bride only after his father approved, so Jesus said: *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert ! You do not know when that time will come -- Mark 13:32-33*

A Waiting Bride Consecrated

While the bridegroom was preparing the wedding chamber, the bride was considered to be consecrated, set apart or "bought with a price". If she went out, she would wear a veil so others would know she was betrothed. During this time she prepared herself for the marriage.

A Waiting Bride Consecrated

We, God's people, are now consecrated, or set apart, waiting for the return of our bridegroom. We should be spending this time preparing ourselves for Jesus' return. Jesus used a parable of ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom to describe the need to be alert for His return.

She likely had saved money all her life for this time. She would purchase expensive cosmetics and learn to apply them to make herself more beautiful for the bridegroom. She wouldn't know when her groom would come for her, so she always had to be ready. Since bridegrooms typically came for their brides in the middle of the night, to "steal them away", the bride would have to have her lamp and her belongings ready at all times. Her sisters or bridesmaids would also be waiting, keeping their lamps trimmed in anticipation of the late night festivities.

*"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom...The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'" "No," they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'" "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'" "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'" "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."*

#### Bridegroom Comes for His Bride

When the bridegroom's father deemed the wedding chamber ready, the father would tell the bridegroom that all was ready and to get His bride. The bridegroom would abduct his bride secretly, like a thief at night and take her to the wedding chamber. As the bridegroom approached the bride's home, he would shout and blow the shofar (ram's horn trumpet) so that she had some warning to gather her belongings to take into the wedding chamber. The bridegroom and his friends would come into the

#### Bridegroom Comes for His Bride

Just as the bridegroom would come for the bride in the middle of the night, with a shout and the sound of a shofar, so the Lord will come for us. *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other*

bride's house and get the bride and her bridesmaids.

*with these words. Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. -- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.*

Seven Days in Wedding Chamber

The bridegroom would take his bride to the wedding chamber where they would spend seven days. The bridegroom's friend would wait outside the door of the wedding chamber. When the marriage was consummated, the bridegroom would tell his friend through the door, and the friend would announce it to the assembled guests. The guests would celebrate for seven days until the bride and bridegroom emerged from the wedding chamber.

Seven Days in Wedding Chamber

Ancient Jewish eschatology taught that a seven year "time of trouble" would come upon the earth before the coming of the Messiah. During that time of trouble, the righteous would be resurrected and would enter the wedding chamber where they would be protected from the time of trouble. Today that seven year period is referred to as the tribulation.

Marriage Supper

After seven days in the wedding chamber, the bride and bridegroom would emerge and participate in a feast with friends and family. There would be joyous celebrating during this feast. The feast would conclude the wedding celebration.

Marriage Supper

Just as the bride and bridegroom celebrated with a joyous wedding supper, so Jesus and His bride, the church will celebrate the marriage. *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" -- Revelation 19:6-9.*

### Depart for Home

After the marriage supper, the bride and bridegroom would leave the groom's father's house where the groom had built the wedding chamber. They would go to their own home, which the bridegroom had prepared.

### Depart for Home

Just as the bride and bridegroom left the marriage supper to go to the home that the bridegroom had prepared, so Jesus and His bride will depart for their new home. *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes... One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. -- Revelation 21:1-*