

Discussion Questions

1. Is it good that we have moved from building cathedrals and impressive stone buildings to converting warehouse and storefronts into churches?
2. Reflecting on Matthew 16:18, do you think Christians have good reason to be optimistic about the future?
3. What changes do you think the church of the future will look like?
4. Is there a role that you can play in discipling/leading the next generations?

If you are doing the 5-week study with a group end here for the week, you can do this section later.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (NLT)

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

Not only does this passage show the last days began when Jesus was born, it also shows that God holds these days in His hands. God has worked throughout history in various ways through various people to accomplish His plan, and He has spoken to people in multiple ways throughout history. He walked with Adam and Eve, but their sin created a barrier between God and man. He spoke to the Hebrew people through fire and through prophets. He then came to Earth to teach in person, and through His death and resurrection, He broke the sin barrier. Now the Holy Spirit can speak to each of His children. Moses would have amazed by a world in which God would make a way for all of His children to communicate with God daily. The way God will work in the future may not look like it did in the past, but He does have a plan. The tribe of Issachar was a tribe of scholars who were able to see how God was working in the world, and their recognition of the signs of the times helped them to show the people of Israel the course to take (I Chr. 12:32).

Going Deeper

5. Why are Christians tempted to believe that God will do the same things in the future that He did in the past? What are some new things (Isaiah 43:19) that God is doing in the world today?
6. If God "sustains everything," how much control do you think He has?
7. In what ways does God speak to people today, and what does that tell us about our place in God's plan?